FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

In retaliation for Iraqi attacks against two oil tankers in the Gulf on 24 March, Iran hit Baghdad with another missile early on 25 March, the Iranian War Information Headquarters announced in a statement cited by IRNA. Earlier, Iran announced a halt in attacks on Iraqi cities following a 23 March halt in Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities, the agency noted. However, Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani had warned Iraq on 22 March that Iran would fire a missile at Baghdad soon and he dismissed reports that Iran has no missiles, the agency reported. In retaliation for Iranian strikes against Baghdad and other cities Iraqi planes launched attacks against Tehran and Kashan early on 25 March, according to Voice of the Masses radio. The Iranian agency acknowledged the 25 March Iraqi attack against Tehran.

In the land war, the Iraqi I Army Corps launched an offensive the night of 22-23 March in mountainous areas "destroying enemy forces" and occupying positions, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Nevertheless, an Iranian military communique reported by IRNA contended that Iranian forces prevented "any movement" of Iraqi forces in the northwest operational sector.

Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, in remarks reported by IRNA, contended that if Iraq carries out its threats against civilian airliners Iran will level Baghdad airport.

GCC and the Gulf War

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, in an interview with the Kuwait paper *AL-WATAN*, said that the Kuwaiti military is making preparations in case the Iran-Iraq war spreads to Kuwaiti borders. Shaykh Salim declared Bubiyan island a military zone equipped with antiaircraft weapons. He also said that plans for establishing a GCC joint strike force are underway and will be reviewed by GCC defense ministers.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait met with Algerian leaders on 24 March to discuss mediation efforts in the Iran-Iraq war, according to KUNA and SPA reports.

Lebanon

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad told President Amin al-Jumayyil on 23 March that Syria supports Lebanon's attempts to confront plans aimed at hampering national accord, and he warned that Syria will not ignore any move that serves the interests of Israel, Damascus television reported. Meanwhile, Beirut radio cited Phalangist Party statements rejecting the "fait accompli imposed on some eastern areas" by the Ja'ja' movement, and accusing the insurgents of conducting a propaganda campaign over Voice of Lebanon radio, which responded by broadcasting a statement by a Lebanese Forces official blaming Phalangist leader Elie Karamah for "the present dire predicament" and for ignoring the views and aspirations of the broad base of the Phalangist Party.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri denounced "the tendency of certain Lebanese to side with Israel" at a press conference broadcast by Beirut radio, issuing a "final warning" to the Lebanese Forces and to "every collaborator with Israel in Sidon" that any replay of the recent "conspiracy" in the Sidon area will be "stamped out by force." Birri also denounced the kidnapping of three French Embassy personnel in Beirut on 22 March, responsibility for which had been claimed by the Islamic Jihad organization according to Paris radio. As for recent IDF operations in villages near Sidon, Birri claimed to have proof that the two CBS reporters killed by Israeli tank fire on 21 March were among civilians and not amid a group of gunmen, as claimed by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in a letter to CBS reported by Jerusalem radio.

Pakistan

President Ziaul Haq, in a 23 March speech to the joint session of Parliament broadcast by Karachi radio, reaffirmed that Pakistan will not recognize or hold direct negotiations with Afghanistan as long as USSR forces are there. On his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Zia noted Gorbachev's assertion that Pakistan has a hand in the external interference in Afghanistan, while Zia maintained that whatever is happening in Afghanistan is being done by the "mujahidin." Zia added that it was "hinted" in Moscow that bilateral relations may be affected if Pakistan does not change its attitude toward Afghanistan.

In a separate development, the new Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo received a unanimous vote of confidence from the National Assembly on 24 March, Karachi radio reported. In his speech Junejo called for the restoration of full democratic rules and the lifting of martial law "as soon as possible," the radio announced. Responding to the Soviet Union's threats to relations with Pakistan, Junejo stated that Pakistan will continue its present policy.

PLO-Jordan Agreement

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in an interview with Jerusalem radio, said that talks between the United States and a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation will not advance peace in the Middle East. Shamir added that peace talks must be held with Israel and not between the United States and the Arabs. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Peres affirmed that Israel "totally objects" to peace negotiations between the United States and a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, and reiterated Israel's call for direct negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without PLO participation, according to a 24 March Israeli Cabinet communique broadcast by Jerusalem television.

On the Jordanian side, the Amman paper *AL-RA'Y* maintained that the U.S. stand on talks with a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation achieved neither "progress nor balance" because it is conditional on excluding the PLO from participation. Meanwhile, talks between King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat are expected in the "near future," the Amman paper *AL-DUSTUR* reported.

Egypt

Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, at a 22 March Bucharest news conference reported by MENA, said that his talks in Romania centered around bilateral cooperation and Middle East developments. 'Ali noted that Romania's relations with Middle East countries permits it to play a "prominent role" in establishing peace.

Sudan

Chairman of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) John Garang de Mabior, in a speech broadcast by the clandestine Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) radio, reiterated that the SPLA-SPLM are committed to the liberation of Sudan and the establishment of a democratic socialist republic. The SPLA-SPLM want to wrest power from the Khartoum regime, not negotiate with it, Garang added. He appealed to the Sudanese Army to "talk directly" with the SPLA in order to bring about peace.

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'Arafat Calls for Good Offices Committee Meeting

LD250846 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, called for an emergency meeting of the Islamic Good Offices Committee for immediate action toward the bloodshed between Iraq and Iran. The Palestinian leader sent a message to Gambian President Dawda Jawara as the chairman of this committee, which includes the PLO, Gambia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Turkey, Guinea, Senegal, and the ICO.

'Arafat Sends Message to Mikhail Gorbachev

GF231658 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, sent a written message last night to new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The message was said to deal with the latest developments in the Arab region, the Palestinian question, the situation in Lebanon, and the oppression to which the Palestinian and Lebanese people are subjected in occupied Palestine and in the villages and Palestinian camps of southern Lebanon. WAFA said that Brother Abu 'Ammar delivered the message to the Soviet ambassador in Tunis during his meeting with him yesterday evening.

'Arafat Confers With UK Ambassador in Tunis

JN221709 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with British Ambassador in Tunis William (Gent) in Tunis yesterday. Our correspondent has learned that they discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas. They also discussed the European move to find a new initiative to solve the Palestinian issue. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO political department.

'Arafat Promotes PLA Commander in Jordan

JN240713 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Amman (AFP)— A Palestinian source in Amman has said that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has promoted Na'im al-Khatib, commander of the Palestinian Liberation Army forces stationed in Jordan, to the rank of major general.

Fatah Reportedly Approves Accord With Jordan

GF241702 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] An informed Palestinian source in Tunis stated yesterday that the Fatah Central Committee has approved the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on joint political moves to resolve the Palestinian issue. The source said: It is possible that Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces, will visit Amman soon to inform King Husayn of Jordan of Fatah's resolution.

Baghdad Voice of PLO Interviews Salah Khalaf

JN231755 [Editorial Report] Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic at 1626 GMT on 23 March carries a largely indistinct 27-minute undated interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, in Baghdad.

Khalaf praises the anniversary of the Al-Karamah battle and speaks about preparations to celebrate Land Day. Khalaf also says that Fatah is concerned with restoring Palestinian unity. Khalaf says: "A broad front is an implementation of the [Syrian] Ba'th Party congress' decision." He said that this front will not succeed. He says that the objective of this front is to cast doubts on Palestinian legitimacy and the PLO.

On the recent Arab visits to Washington, Khalaf says that Washington believes that a solution to the Middle East crisis can only be achieved through the approval of the "Zionist state."

Khalaf goes on to say that cohesion between the Lebanese resistance and Palestinians in southern Lebanon is a promising development in the Arab world. He says: "We will continue to look for promising alternatives, and I believe that what is happening in southern Lebanon is a promising alternative."

PNC's Khalid al-Hasan Comments on Reagan Statements

JN241829 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] In a statement to our radio regarding U.S. statements concerning discussions with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Khalid al-Hasan, head of the PNC's foreign relations committee, has stated the following: In spite of some positive signs that have begun to appear in the statements of some U.S. officials, one can clearly discern that these statements, including the positive signs, are being formulated in a provocative manner and in coordination with statements by Shimon Peres. This implies that the objective of all this is, as usual, to generate conflicting reactions in the Palestinian and Arab arena.

Khalid al-Hasan added that some positive signs vanish when President Ronald Reagan speaks about the need for the members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to not be affiliated with the PLO and that the PLO does not represent all the Palestinians. This approach undermines any good intentions for understanding the U.S. statements and makes the Palestinian stand become extremely wary in dealing with this stand.

On the other hand, Khalid al-Hasan stressed the need to strengthen Palestinian-USSR relations and to hold constant consultations with the Soviets on the international peace conference.

Mideast Talks; Amman Accord

LD251208 Kuwait KUNA in English 1048 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Paris, March 25 (KUNA) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should be given the right to choose Palestinian members of an eventual Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to meet American officials to discuss a peace initiative for the Middle East conflict, a leading member of the PLO said Monday [25 March].

In an interview with French daily *LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS*, Khalid al-Hasan, a close advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, added, however, that the PLO would accept a condition to not include members of the mainstream Fatah movement in the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

"We don't think it is in our interest, at the present stage, to obtain a meeting between PLO leaders and the Americans," he explained.

Commenting on Washington's refusal to meet a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, when President Husni Mubarak suggested it during his recent visit to the U.S., Al-Hasan considered that the Egyptian president had made the mistake of revealing to the public his peace proposal.

"A superpower never accepts a suggestion made publicly by another country," he said and added that since President Mubarak was in Washington to obtain increased financial aid, he was not in the right position to discuss the peace proposal. Al-Hasan, nevertheless, believes that the Americans might change their attitude, at least tactically, if they believe the Arabs are firm in their support of the Amman accord.

Explaining the reason behind the PLO refusal to hold direct negotiations with Israel and the call for an international conference, with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council, Al-Hasan indicated that unless there is external pressure on Israel the latter will not give anything. He further underlined that the very existence of Israel is based on UN resolutions, "so the problem has to be solved in that framework," he added.

Asked why Resolution 242 was not clearly mentioned in the Amman accord, the PLO official replied that the Amman accord is aimed at obtaining "peace in exchange of territories," a peace based on "all the United Nations resolutions, including those of the Security Council."

Al-Hasan explained that Resolution 242 was an element of the "package deal" referred to in the Jordanian-Palestinian accord. The main problem with that resolution, he said, is that it does not refer to the Palestinian people or the Palestinian problem, but deals only with the consequences of the 1967 war. That is the reason why we referred to a "package deal" in the Amman accord and that will be our reference term to start peace negotiations, noted al-Hasan.

Questioned about the nature of the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, Al-Hasan indicated that it would be a confederation between two sovereign states, otherwise it would be described as a federation. "The Palestinian state will exist before the confederation, even if the confederation comes only five minutes after independence," he stated.

PLO 'Source' on Palestinian-Jordanian Delegation

JN250733 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
25 Mar 85 p 23

[Text] Amman — *SAWT AL-SHA'B* — A responsible PLO source yesterday stated the following: A statement has been attributed to brother Sa'id Kamal on forming a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to hold dialogue with the United States. We assert that such information is baseless and that nobody authorized him to publish it. We also assert the principles mentioned in the PLO Executive Committee's statement regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and adhere to these principles in letter and spirit. The Palestinian people are represented by their legitimate representatives. The PLO adheres to the international conference as the framework for holding a dialogue on the Middle East issue and the Palestine cause.

Al-Wazir on Joint Delegation

JN251304 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT
25 Mar 85

[Text] In a statement to our radio correspondent Fu'ad Na'im in Amman, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has asserted that the reports on forming a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation to hold talks with the United States are incorrect. He said: There are no steps to this effect, and what is obvious is the U.S. policy of intransigence and the continuous rejection by the U.S. Administration of any dealing with the PLO.

Democratic Alliance on 'Foiling' Amman Agreement

JN241148 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT
24 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — The Palestinian Democratic Alliance has strongly condemned the recent Husayn-'Arafat agreement and called upon the Palestinian and Arab masses to foil it. The Alliance affirmed in a statement today that foiling the Amman agreement is the central task which all forces and efforts without exception must rally around. The statement urges allies and friends on the Arab and international levels to support the Democratic Alliance in foiling the Amman agreement which is against the Palestine questi[illegible].

Palestinian National Salvation Front Formed

JN251234 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT
25 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — [Former] PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum announced the formation of a Palestinian National Salvation Front in Damascus today. This front is aimed at toppling the trend of deviation and relinquishment, restoring the PLO's national line, and protecting the PLO's accomplishments. He stressed that this Front is open to everyone who agrees to its political program and basic organizational principles.

This was announced in a press conference Al-Fahum held at the PNC headquarters in Damascus with the participation of George Habash, PFLP secretary general; Ahmad Jibril, PFLP-GC secretary general; Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; Colonel Muhammad Sa'id Musa, known as Abu Musa, secretary of the Fatah provisional command; 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-Al-Sa'iqah forces; Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, member of the PLO Executive Committee and official PLO spokesman; Muhammad Khalifah, PLO Executive Committee member; Abu Mahir al-Yamani [Ahmad al-Yamani], PLO Executive Committee member; Talal Naji, PLO Executive Committee member; and several commanders of the Palestinian revolution factions.

At the beginning of the press conference, Khalid al-Fahum said: Out of care for our people's rights and for the destiny of our national cause and for the sake of confronting and repulsing the dangers posed to our revolution, agreement has been reached to establish the Palestinian National Salvation Front from all the national factions, forces, and personalities that adhere to the PLO on the basis of abidance by the charter, statutes, and resolutions of the PNC in its legitimate sessions and by the provisions of the national program's political and organizational sections which safeguard our rights and preserve the PLO's national line that is hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and liqudiatory solutions and that reject the illegitimate Amman [PNC] session.

He added that agreement has been reached to establish the Palestinian National Salvation Front that will assume the basic tasks required by the current serious stage, headed by protecting the PLO, its national program, and the resolutions of its PNC sessions and legitimate meetings; resisting all alternative options that undermine the sole, independent representation of our people, whether through deputization, appointment, participation, or annexation; both confronting and toppling the Husayn-'Arafat agreement and what results or may result from it, considering it an illegitimate agreement that does not represent the Palestinian people's will and that is not binding to the PLO; toppling the trend of deviation and relinquishment; restoring the PLO's national line and protecting its accomplishments; adhering to the strategic solidity with Syria, the Arab forces of steadfastness, and the socialist countries, headed by the Soviet Union; firmly confronting all the U.S. and Zionist capitulatory plans; and escalating armed struggle against occupation and its fascist, expansionist practices.

Al-Fahum stressed that the Palestinian National Salvation Front is a temporary framework aimed at restoring the PLO's national line and that it is open to everyone who agrees to its political program. This Front, he added, is led by a collective leadership and has specialized working committees responsible for implementing its basic tasks. PLO Executive Committee member Abu Mahir al-Yamani then read out the text of the political program and the basic organizational principles of the Palestinian National Salvation Front.

Joint Forces Shell Israeli Settlement of Metulla

JN221716 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The heroes of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces shelled the Zionist settlement of Metulla with katyusha rockets today. The shelling caused extensive damage to the settlement and a number of Zionists were either killed or wounded. The Zionist enemy radio admitted the operation, but, as usual, did not mention its losses. It said that its forces immediately besieged neighboring villages and carried out extensive search-and-arrest campaigns in a futile attempt to find the heroes of the joint forces.

Saudi, Kuwaiti Ministers Attend Arab League Council

LD242326 Riyadh SPA in English 1922 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, March 24, SPA — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah arrived in Tunis from Algiers to take part in the 83d session of the Arab League's ministerial council due to begin in the Tunisian capital tomorrow. On arrival they were greeted by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, by Saudi and Kuwaiti ambassadors to Tunisia, and senior officials. In Algiers, they held talks with President Chadli Bendjedid on the current Arab situation and the Iran-Iraq war.

GULF AFFAIRS

Kuwait Declares Gulf Island 'Military Zone'

NC221858 Paris AFP in English 1847 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 22 (AFP) – Kuwait has declared its northwest Gulf island of Bubiyan, which has strategic value in the Iran-Iraq war, an out-of-bounds "military zone", the daily *AL-WATAN* reported today. Defense Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah told the paper: "We have taken all provisions on this island for any eventuality."

Last December the minister said Kuwait had put troops on Bubiyan Island and Warbah Island, to the north, and set up anti-aircraft batteries, including ground to air missiles.

Iran previously warned Kuwait not to cede the islands to Iraq.

Shaykh al-Sabah told the newspaper that Kuwait would not tolerate any attack on its territory and did not intend to attack anybody. He did not rule out an extension of the Iran-Iraq war to Kuwait's borders and said air and ground defenses were prepared. Kuwait had made arrangements to protect oil tankers in the Gulf which have come under attack, he said.

Last Sunday, the Liberian tanker *Caribbean Breeze*, carrying Kuwaiti crude, was attacked by Iraqi planes in the southern Gulf.

BAHRAIN

Foreign Minister Leaves for Tunis 25 Mar

GF251055 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Manama, 25 Mar (WAKH) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah left for Tunis this morning at the head of his country's delegation to the meeting of the Arab League Council. The meeting will begin in the Tunisian capital later today and will last 3 days.

Prior to his departure, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah stressed the importance of this conference, which is being held at a critical and important time when Arab relations are most tense and when the region is witnessing sensitive developments.

The Bahraini minister expressed hope that the 83d session of the Arab League will ease tension among the Arab brothers and help in confronting the challenges facing the Arab nation in these critical circumstances. He added that this is one of the most important meetings in the history of the Arab League, expressing hope that the meeting will accomplish what we have always aspired for, that is the reuniting of the ranks and words in the best interests of the Arab nation.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah announced that the GCC foreign ministers will work together with their brothers in the Arab League council in discussing putting an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war and reaching joint Arab stands to stop this war, expressing hope that these efforts will be successful in ending this destructive war between the two Muslim neighbors.

Concluding his statement, he said that the issue of convening an Arab summit conference will be discussed during the conference if Arab circumstances are suitable.

KUWAIT

Defense Minister on War Threat, GCC Joint Force

GF231330 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Mar (WAKH) — Kuwait Defense Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah affirmed that his country has adopted the necessary precautionary measures for any attack against it and warned that Kuwait will not let any one attack it.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily *AL-WATAN* published today, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah also affirmed that the Gulf countries are peaceful states and do not bear animosity against anybody; however, they will not be lenient with whoever disturbs their domestic or foreign security.

He said: "The principle of Kuwait and the GCC countries is set on the basis that any attack on any Gulf state is an attack on all, and this is also an affirmation to the Arab League Charter. And on this basis, we are making preparations and joint exercises in order to be able to defend the Gulf by ourselves and foil the attempts of those who want to interfere on the pretext of defending or assisting us to defend ourselves."

The Kuwaiti defense minister said: "Since the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war, we have been studying all its directions and are equipping our positions and air and ground defenses as a precaution for the consequences, and we are strengthening the locations which may pose a weakness for Kuwait." As to the Iraq-Iran war, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said: "The development that took place in this war converted it into a war of bloodshed."

He affirmed that Kuwait depends in its policy on diversifying its source of arms. He said: "The coordination and cooperation between the GCC countries exists and is continuing, and the Gulf force, which the recent summit talked about, has been principally approved."

The Kuwaiti defense minister affirmed the importance of the maneuvers between the GCC forces and said: "The live maneuvers, such as the 'Peninsula Shield-1' and 'Peninsula Shield-2' consolidate the capabilities of the recruits, refines them, and enables them to achieve experience and real and practical practice."

He said that Kuwait will set a reserve army of the conscripts in the next 5 or 6 years, called the reserve army to be a support and second line to the regular army and affirmed that many of the recruits proved their capabilities and there are many proofs for that.

Official 'Sources' Deny Iraqi Border Closure

GF240940 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Mar (WAKH) — Official sources at the Kuwaiti Interior and Defense Ministries have denied that Kuwait has closed its borders with Iraq. They affirmed that the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders are open and that nothing has happened to make it necessary to close the borders.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-SIYASAH* published today, an official source at the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry, and Major General Yusuf al-Kharafi, under secretary at the Interior Ministry, said that these reports are untrue and that the borders between the two countries are open as normal.

The newspaper expressed astonishment over these news reports which were carried by Tehran Radio and which said that the Iraqi-Kuwaiti broders in the region of Al-'Abdali have been closed.

Foreign Minister Departs for Algeria, Tunisia

LD231004 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0832 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Mar (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, left here this morning for Algeria on a 2-day official visit, after which he will go to Tunisia to participate in the Arab League Council meeting which will begin next Monday.

Before leaving, Shaykh Sabah al-Jabir said that his visit to Algeria comes in accordance with the decision taken by the GCC's higher council during its fifth summit conference in Kuwait in November. He added that the council entrusted him then with the mission of visiting Damascus, Algiers, and Libya and that his visit to Algeria falls within the framework of this mission. Following his arrival in Tunisia, he will discuss the possibility of a visit to Libya.

Shaykh Sabah, it is recalled, visited Damascus early this year and carried a message from the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, to the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad.

Asked if the Arab League council will discuss during its meeting on Monday the question of the Iraq-Iran war, Shaykh Sabah said: "It goes without saying that the question of the Iraq-Iran war and its grave development will be discussed within the framework of the Arab league."

Shaykh Sabah is accompanied by his bureau chief, 'Abdallah Sa'ud al-'abd al-Razzaq, and protocol department official, 'Abdallah al-San'usi.

PRC Oil Minister Tang Ke Arrives For Visit

LD231537 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] PRC Minister of Petroleum Tang Ke arrived in Kuwait today heading an official delegation on a 5-day visit at the invitation of the minister of oil and industry, 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi. The Chinese minister will conduct talks with senior officials on joint projects, the development of oil relations between the two countries, and the conditions of world oil market.

Joint Talks Begin

LD231930 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1836 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 23 Mar (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti Chinese official oil talks commenced here this evening. The Kuwaiti side was presided over by Minister of Oil and Industry Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi al-Sabah, and the Chinese side was presided over by Tang Ke, the Chinese minister of petroleum industry.

Shaykh 'Ali Al-Khalifah al-Adhbi al-Sabah, the minister of oil and industry, told the press after the meeting: "We divided ourselves into committees, and these committees will look into the different issues."

Norwegian Oil Minister Arrives For Visit

LD240032 Kuwait KUNA in English 1755 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 23 (KUNA) — The Norwegian Petroleum and Energy Minister Kaare Kristiansen arrived in Kuwait from Doha Saturday evening at the head of a 15-member delegation for a five day official visit. In an arrival statement, the Norwegian minister said: "We believe that OPEC's current policies are sensible...and we support them."

The minister said his current three-nation tour in the region which has also taken him to Saudi Arabia aimed at getting information about marketing and other oil related issues from the more experienced OPEC countries.

Kristiansen, who was received at the airport by the deputy board chairman and managing director for planning, administrative and financial affairs of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, 'Abd al-Razzaq Mullah Husayn, said he expects world oil prices to go up in the near future as Europe and the U.S. would have to refill their empty oil stocks. The minister denied that Norway was the first to cut its oil prices saying that other countries had actually been selling oil on discount basis.

Kristiansen is due to meet with Oil and Industry Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi al-Sabah and other senior oil officials.

The Norwegian minister and his Chinese counterpart who arrived in Kuwait earlier today are scheduled to visit Kuwait Oil Company and the Ahmadi refinery tomorrow.

OMAN

Foreign Ministry Official Departs for Tunis

GF221530 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, left the country today for the Republic of Tunisia on an official visit lasting several days. He will also attend the meetings of the 83d session of the Arab League Council that will begin in Tunis on 25 March. He was seen off by a number of foreign ministry senior officials.

QATAR

Amir Receives Norwegian Oil Minister 23 Mar

GF231756 Manama WAKH in English 1655 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Doha, March 23 (QNA) — H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received here Saturday visiting Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Kaare Kristiansen to review Qatar-Norwegian relations in the various domains particularly in the oil and energy fields, QNA learned. The meeting, attended by Qatari Minister of Finance and Petroleum Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani also covered other issues of mutual interest.

The Norwegian minister is expected to leave here for Kuwait later in the day on the last leg of his current Gulf tour which has taken him to Saudi Arabia.

Foreign Minister Departs for Tunis 24 Mar

GF241832 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Doha, 24 Mar (WAKH) — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, heading his country's delegation, left for Tunis today to attend the 83d session of the Arab League council meeting which will begin tomorrow.

SAUDI ARABIA

Deputy Aviation Minister Returns From French Visit

LD232351 Riyadh SPA in English 1215 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, March 23, SPA — Deputy Defense and Aviation Minister Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz returned home Friday night after a four-day visit to France during which he had talks with French President Francios Mitterrand and French Defense Minister Charles Hernu. He was greeted at the airport by Prince Khalid ibn Turki and a number of officials.

Official 'Source' on French, German Arms

LD241259 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1150 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh 24 Mar (SPA) — An official source in the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia made the following statement to SPA:

We learned with profound sorrow of reports by some agencies and newspapers that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intends to conclude a deal to purchase military aircraft from the French Government. While the Kingdom's Government expresses its appreciation to French officials for their response and cooperation, it would like to affirm its denial of the French and non-French information media reports regarding the aircraft deal, since nothing of this has been agreed upon at this time and nothing final has yet been decided in this regard. This does not mean that the Kingdom is halting its purchases of what it needs from France and from others. However, continued attention to the subject of a deal ahead of its conclusion requires clarification.

The source added: On the other hand, there has been much talk by some German Government and opposition leaders with regard to the German Leopard tanks, a matter that suggests this subject has become material for exploitation for other matters with no connection to the Kingdom.

This also is inadmissible for use as an element for a give and take between the Saudi and German Governments that might affect the two countries' political and economic relations.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not insisted upon purchases from specific countries. It is capable of securing the machinery and equipment it needs from any country and has total freedom in its commercial and economic dealings with all countries of the world.

The source concluded: According to what we have clarified, we hope all Western and Arab information media will stop delving into such matters that unjustifiably harm its relations with the friendly countries. A careless word does not serve mutual interest, hence attention must be drawn [to this fact].

Gambian President Arrives in Jeddah 24 March

LD242215 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Dawda Jawara, the Gambian president and chairman of the Islamic Good Offices Committee, arrived this evening in Jeddah with an accompanying delegation on a visit to the Kingdom.

He was received on his arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the governor of Mecca; the ICO secretary general, Sharif al-Din Pirzada; and a number of senior officials.

Foreign Minister Departs for Algeria, Tunisia

LD231524 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1152 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Mar (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince al-Faysal, our foreign minister, left today for Algiers. During his visit he will hold a joint meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on developments in the Gulf region, especially the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war.

After this visit the foreign minister will travel to Tunis to head the Kingdom's delegation to the meeting of the Arab League Council.

UAE

PNC Official Interviewed on PLO-Jordanian Plan

KHALEEJ TIMES Interview

GF221136 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 22 Mar 85 p 3

[Text] PLO officials are currently going round the Arab countries to obtain the latters' approval of the joint PLO-Jordan plan of action to solve the Palestine problem. This was stated by Salim al-Za'nun (Abu al-Adib), deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council (PNC), while talking to *KHALEEJ TIMES* in Dubai yesterday.

Abu Adib, currently on a brief visit to the Emirates, said that the joint plan of action would substitute the seven-member sub-committee of Arab officials formed after the Fes summit. The sub-committee has been inactive for various reasons, he said.

The PLO-Jordan joint plan of action is based on five major planks. The first ensures that moves by the two countries are in line with the UN resolutions with regard to the Palestinian cause. The second restates the Palestinians' right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state which will join Jordan in a confederation. The third plank highlights the importance of finding a solution to the Palestinian refugee problem in accordance with UN resolutions, while the fourth reiterates the need to solve the Palestinian issue at all levels.

Lastly, the PLO-Jordan move aims at convening an international peace conference under the auspices of the UN and with the participation of all the five permanent members of the Security Council and the concerned Arab countries.

The Palestinian official, however, was not optimistic about the international conference. Abu Adib explained that the absence of a balance of power in the area and the international arena was against it. The Reagan administration, he pointed out, had rejected both President Mubarak's as well as King Fahd's plans. Abu Adib said that the U.S. wanted direct bilateral negotiations between Arab countries and Israel, which had been totally rejected by the PLO. He added that PLO officials were trying to convince Arab leaders to hold an Arab summit to find a way out of this vicious circle.

But, Abu Adib remarked, these efforts had not been fruitful due to internal Arab differences. Among the problems standing in the way of the summit, according to him, are the Iran-Iraq war and the question of Egypt's return to the Arab fold.

Abu Adib said that most Arab countries insisted on unanimous approval for holding the summit. This is a difficult proposition. Therefore, PLO officials have suggested that the summit be held even if at least two-thirds of the Arab countries attend it. Abu Adib pointed out that a summit was held in the early eighties at which five Arab countries did not take part.

Abu Adib reiterated that because of the obstacles facing the peace efforts, the only alternative left to the Palestinians was to escalate the military struggle. The PLO had escalated its operations in the occupied land but would continue its efforts for peace, he added.

Talks With AL-WAHDAH

GF230857 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0725 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Mar (WAKH) — The PLO has denied that the mayor of the occupied Gaza Strip, Rashad al-Shawwa, is a member in the proposed Palestinian-Jordanian delegation that would hold talks with the United States to settle the Palestinian issue. It has also denied that Al-Shawwa's recent visit to France and Britain was made with the PLO's approval.

PNC Deputy Speaker Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, in a statement carried in today's issue of the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper *AL-WAHDAH*, said that Rashad al-Shawwa does not represent the PLO and that his visits to Paris and London were made on his own. He said that the meetings which Al-Shawwa held with French President Francois Mitterrand and British officials did not concern the PLO at all.

Al-Za'nun accused France and Britain of retreating on their stand on the Palestinian issue. France is still laying responsibility on the Palestinian side and Britain also still insists on the PLO's recognition of the Zionist entity, he said.

The PNC deputy speaker ruled out the possibility of forming a Palestinian government in exile. Confederation between Palestine and Jordan will never be made before establishing the independent Palestinian state, he said. He emphasized that a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue will never take place except through a Syrian-Palestinian-Jordanian agreement. In this regard, he called for holding talks among the three parties. The PLO extends its hand to Syria and it does not ignore geography because Syria has great importance for the Palestinian issue, he concluded.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Arab League Meeting

GF241746 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Mar (WAKH) — UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah left here today for Tunis, at the head ministerial council due to open there tomorrow. He was seen off by a number of senior officials at the Foreign Ministry.

PDRY

Chairman Meets Soviet, Algerian, Ethiopian Officials

GF241640 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, received in his office at the YSP Central Committee's Secretariat this morning Comrade Vladislav Pelrovich Zhukov, ambassador of the USSR in Aden, who delivered a message from the Soviet leaders.

During this meeting, the brother secretary general expressed satisfaction for the progress relations between our parties and countries and stressed the importance of continuing the consolidation of friendship ties between the PDRY and the Soviet Union in all party, government and popular sectors.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also received at noon today in his office at the Central Committee's Secretariat Brother (Mustafa ibn 'Ammar), deputy finance minister, official in charge of the budget and public property, and chief of the Algerian side to the joint PDRY-Algerian economic committee.

During this meeting, the brother secretary general expressed satisfaction for the development in the struggle relations between the PDRY and Algeria which are consolidated daily in the course of the joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism. During the meeting the brother secretary general was acquainted with the progress of the activities of the joint PDRY-Algerian economic committee and hailed the efforts exerted by this committee in order to accomplish the goals agreed upon by the leaderships of both fraternal countries and in order to develop fraternal cooperation between them.

The meeting was attended by Brother Nasr Nasir 'Ali, member of the Central Committee, minister of labor and civil service, and chief of the PDRY side to the economic committee.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also received in his office at the Central Committee's Secretariat at noon today Comrade Hailu Yamanu, member of the Political Bureau of the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia, and minister of industry, who delivered a message from Ethiopian leader Comrade Mengistu Haile-Mariam, secretary general of the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, and commander in chief of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Army.

During the meeting, a number of issues related to developing bilateral relations were discussed. The brother secretary general expressed satisfaction for the progress in the alliance and cooperation relations between the PDRY and Socialist Ethiopia, pointing out that developing the struggle alliance between the Yemeni and Ethiopian revolutions is considered to be one of the important factors of bolstering the unity and struggle of the Arab and African national liberation movements in the face of imperialism and Zionism. The meeting was attended by Brother Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee.

GDR Delegation Concludes Visit, Departs 22 Mar

GF222010 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The GDR party delegation — which is led by Comrade Krenz, deputy secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany — left Aden today at the conclusion of the visit to the PDRY that lasted several days.

YAR

Algerian Delegation Concludes Visit

GF242000 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The Algerian delegation under Brother Bachir Khaldoun, member of the Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, left Sanaa today following a 5-day visit to our country during which the delegation delivered a message to the brother leader president, secretary general, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Reportage on Visit of Zairian President Mobutu

Mobutu Arrives in Cairo

NC241111 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Zairian President Mobutu Sese Sekou arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 4-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During his visit, he will meet with President Husni Mubarak to discuss international and African issues, as well as the Middle East situation. The Zairian president was received on arrival at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah by President Husni Mubarak and senior state officials.

Mubarak Banquet Speech

NC241858 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak lauded Iraq's position and its willingness to work for a peaceful settlement of the dispute between Iraq and Iran. He said Egypt welcomes this, and urges Iran to respond to this constructive position. This, he added, would end the bloodshed, and save the resources of these two states, members of the Nonaligned Movement.

In a speech at this evening's official banquet for Zairian President Mobutu Sese Sekou, President Mubarak warned of the gravity of recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war. Their effects, he said, are more than a threat to Middle East peace; they are a danger to international peace and security.

President Mubarak pointed out that the Middle East was the site of recent positive developments and encouraging signs along the road to a peaceful settlement of the regional conflict. The most important of these was the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which seeks to find a formula for joint action to achieve a just and comprehensive regional peace and to defend the legitimate rights of the fraternal Palestinian people.

President Husni Mubarak described the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as an initiative that will benefit all parties, as it represents a strong push for the regional peace process.

President Mubarak emphasized that peace and security in the Middle East are closely linked to peace and security on the African Continent.

President Mubarak called for joint African action to address the urgent and pressing problems facing African states. He also called for sincere efforts to strengthen the OAU, and to keep it away from the causes of division. This will allow the OAU to continue its vital role as a framework for African action.

The following is the text of President Husni Mubarak's banquet speech:

Dear brother and friend, President Marshal Mobutu Sese Sekou; Mrs Mobutu; dear brothers and sisters:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Egyptian soil as a dear brother and as a leader of a fraternal people to whom we are bound by the strongest bonds and the deepest ties. Our great African Continent binds us together, as does our common struggle for the freedom of the African people, their right to life, and their hopes for the future. We haven't forgotten, dear friend, the welcome and hospitality accorded us during our visit to your fraternal country at the beginning of last year. We in Cairo are continuing the tradition, which we are eager to preserve, of maintaining a process of consultation and dialogue with our brothers and friends. We do so for our mutual benefit, for our peoples' progress, and for the establishment of peace in our world.

I take great pleasure in looking forward with you to future relations between our two fraternal countries. They have ended a quarter century marked by fruitful cooperation in all fields. This is a source of pride for us, and a stimulus to begin additional constructive work to strengthen bilateral relations and to give them a strong push in various areas.

Your Excellency the president, our two countries have a similar view of the problems plaguing our struggling continent — confrontation of the racist regime in South Africa, and our joint support for Namibian independence, and for an end to the racist practices which cause our brothers in South Africa to suffer. We are also bound by our common support for the legitimate government in Chad and by our work on behalf of that African country's stability and territorial integrity.

We share your opinions, and agree on the need for unified African action to address all the urgent and pressing problems facing the African states. I refer here to the grinding economic crisis and to the draught, which has claimed thousands of African lives. This is a matter of growing concern to us. I discussed this question with our friends in the states I visited recently. I did so because I believe all mankind has a responsibility toward our brothers under these difficult circumstances.

These challenges make it necessary for us to show more solidarity, and to strengthen relations among our states. We should do so in light of the common feeling that our interests and fate are united. These challenges also require that we give serious support to the OAU and keep it away from factors that cause dissension and division. This will allow the OAU to resume its vital role as a framework for unified African action. It will then be able to realize the hopes of Africa's peoples and to uphold the noble principles upon which it was founded.

Mr President, you too must have followed recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war. Their consequences are not only a threat to peace in the Middle East; they are danger to world peace and security. This has become more obvious after the serious escalation which the region has seen over the past few weeks. We have seen the expansion of military operations to cover densely-populated cities in both countries. This escalation is depleting the two countries' resources and causing huge loss of life.

We welcome Iraq's declaration of its readiness to work for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. We urge Iran to respond positively to this constructive position to stop the bloodshed and save the resources of these two states, members of the Nonaligned Movement, to which we proudly belong.

Dear friend, perhaps you also agree with us that peace and security in the Middle East are closely linked with the security and safety of the African Continent. Our region recently saw some positive developments and encouraging signs along the road to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict. The most important of these was the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement signed last month between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO. The purpose of this agreement is to find a formula for joint action to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to obtain the legitimate rights of the fraternal Palestinian people. This agreement is an initiative that will benefit all parties, as it represents a strong impetus for the peace process in this region, which has long suffered from conflict and war.

Mr President, we are immensely pleased by your presence among us in your capacity as a prominent African personality and as a leader of a fraternal people who, like us, live in the basin of that great African river, the Nile.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me ask you to stand and salute our brother and friend, President Mobutu Sese Sekou, and Lady Mobutu, all of Egypt's guests here, the everlasting ties between our two fraternal peoples, and the progress of our African Continent. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Mobutu Banquet Speech

NC250548 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Zairian President Mobutu Sese Sekou has praised Egypt's leadership and cultural influence. In a speech at a dinner hosted in his honor by President Husni Mubarak at 'Abidin Palace this evening, President Mobutu said that Egypt enjoys great influence and prestige among those nations that love peace, justice, and freedom. He noted that Egypt's special geopolitical position has placed it at the crossroads of African and Middle Eastern civilizations.

He described Egypt's civilization, which dates back thousands of years, as not only one of the oldest, but as one of the most glorious and brightest known to man. It has won every form of admiration and respect.

The Zairian president added: The Egyptians invented engineering, trigonometry, the concept of the square root, and anesthesia. This was in addition to their astonishing knowledge of scales, hoists, and mechanics.

He said: We are dealing with an enormous treasure here. You, Mr President, have been able to preserve this legacy since assuming responsibility for your beautiful country in October 1981. Your illustrious predecessor, President Anwar al-Sadat, whom I mention with respect, did so as well.

Mr President, your efforts for development deserve every form of praise and appreciation from us. In fact, these efforts are directed not only at your people's economic and social prosperity, but at bolstering unity in the Arab world and throughout Africa.

President Mobutu said: Thanks to your political courage and [word indistinct] skill, Egypt has successfully emerged from the isolation imposed on it by certain extremist states.

Zaire congratulates itself today on the restoration of relations between Egypt and the ICO, and on the restoration of Egypt's diplomatic relations with Jordan.

The Zairian president expressed hope that these efforts will continue. He added: All this means is that your country will be following the tradition that put it in the vanguard of those who advocate Arab unity, to which your country has made such an outstanding contribution.

Mubarak, Mobutu Begin Talks

NC250937 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a closed session with Zairian President Mobutu Sese Sekou this morning at the Republican Palace in Al-Qabbah.

The Egyptian and Zairian delegations held a joint session at the same time. The Egyptian side included Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, foreign minister; Dr Safwat al-Sharif, information minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs and head of the team escorting the Zairian president; Ambassador Ahmad Sidqi, head of the African Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Dr Mustafa Fahmi, Egypt's ambassador to Zaire.

The talks were attended on the Zairian side by Mokol wa Mpombo, minister of state for foreign affairs and international cooperation; Seti Yale, special presidential advisor on national security; Ngandu Mwalaba, Zaire's ambassador to Cairo; (Bukti), head of the African Department at the Zairian Foreign Ministry; and (Landagh Shiri Mwami), adviser to the minister of state for foreign affairs.

The talks dealt with African, Middle East, and current international issues as well as OAU problems. They also focused on strengthening bilateral relations and coordinating cooperation among the Nile basin countries.

NDP Praises Outcome of Mubarak's Recent Tour

NC241125 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] After having reviewed President Mubarak's recent visits to the United States and Europe, the NDP General Secretariat affirmed that the visits have contributed to stimulating the Palestinian issue and to achieving support for the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement. The visits have proven that Egypt is the Arab country with influence and the Arab country which is always capable of producing initiatives that point out the responsibilities of the international community. This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following a meeting of the NDP General Secretariat. He said that the visits have succeeded in breaking the deadlock facing the Palestinian issue at one of its most serious stages. The major international efforts exerted by President Mubarak have resulted in various proposals at the international level.

Mubarak on Need for 'Boosting' Production

NC241223 Cairo MENA in English 1200 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, March 24 (MENA) — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has reiterated that boosting production remains a national goal. He said that Egyptian factories should operate at full capacity to meet local market needs and provide a surplus for export.

During a meeting here today which lasted for almost ninety minutes with several ministers, businessmen, and industrialists, President Mubarak called on the public sector to continue expanding its production, to avoid exploitation, and to place Egypt's national interests above any other considerations. The president's statements were reported by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif who attended the meeting.

President Mubarak stressed the need to reschedule foreign currency debts owed by the private sector.

According to Al-Sharif, President Mubarak will meet again with private sector industrialists on April 8 to review with them their proposals to solve problems impeding the boosting of their production.

During the meeting, Economy Minister Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id reviewed the outcome of the recent economic regulations and their impact on providing foreign exchange requirement of the industrial and production sectors.

AAPSO Delegation Departs for Libya Meeting

NC241130 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1112 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — The Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee left Cairo today for Banghazi. The delegation is led by committee Chairman Ahmad Hamrus. The delegation will participate in the AAPSO Council Presidium meetings, which will begin tomorrow and will continue until next Sunday. All Afro-Asian committees will participate in these meetings. Before leaving Cairo, Hamrush said that the AAPSO Presidium Council will discuss a number of issues, primarily the Palestinian issue and the Gulf war. In addition, a new AAPSO chairman will be elected to replace former Chairman 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sharqawi, who recently resigned for health reasons.

Government Denounces South Africa's Racist Policy

NC231256 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Egypt has declared its denunciation of the actions carried out by the racist regime in South Africa against the African people in the south, which left scores of dead and wounded among defenseless civilians. Egypt also declared its condemnation of the racial discrimination policy. It stressed the need for concerted international efforts to firmly stand up to this policy and tighten the boycott measures against the racist regime, in implementation of the UN and OAU resolutions.

This was contained in a statement released today by a Foreign Ministry official spokesman on the 25th anniverary of the Sharpville massacre. The statement said that proceeding from Egypt's African commitment and representation, Egypt affirms its determination to continue efforts to take the measures that will eliminate racial segregation and enable the African citizens to enjoy their full rights within a framework of freedom and equality.

AL-RA'Y: 'Ali To Visit Jordan in April

JN250822 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Mar 85 pp 1, 20

[Text] Cairo — Exclusive — Egypt's Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will pay an official visit to Jordan during the third part of April for talks with senior Jordanian officials on the current situation in the region and bilateral relations. In an exclusive statement to the *AL-RA'Y* correspondent in Cairo, he said that the visit will deal with aspects of economic and trade cooperation between both countries to complete the talks which took place between His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and 'Ali during the prince's recent visit to Cairo.

On the Egyptian president's recent visit to Baghdad, 'Ali said: In his capacity as an Arab leader, President Mubarak is very concerned to be reassured about the situation on the eastern front of the Arab nation, especially after the fierce battles waged at the front, east of Basra, and after the attacks on civilian and military targets. This situation called for personal reassurance about what is taking place at the Iraqi-Iranian front. President Mubarak's visit together with his brother His Majesty King Husayn came to assert Arab fraternity.

On his recent visit to Romania, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Romania is playing a positive role in the Middle East peace process.

Journalists Arrested for Protest at Cairo Fair

NC241659 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — According to Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi, journalists Muhammad Ihsan 'Abd al-Qaddus and Majdi Ahmad Husayn, arrested during incidents at the Cairo International Fair, have been treated well. He added: Their relatives have been allowed to get in touch with them.

He made this statement after being contacted by Ibrahim Nafi', doyen of the press corps. Nafi', who is now in West Germany, called the interior minister today to inquire about the condition of the two journalists.

The prosecutor's office has allowed a member of the journalists association board to be present during the interrogation of the two newsmen. Nafi' also contacted the association and asked it to appoint defense attorneys for the two journalists, who were among those arrested.

The Supreme State Security Prosecutor's Office had already decided to detain 18 of those who demonstrated outside the Israeli pavilion at the Cairo International Fair. They have also been charged with throwing stones at the pavilion. Five police officers and a number of guards at the fair were wounded.

AL-SHA'B Critical of Mubarak's U.S. Visit

PM221231 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Mar 85 p 12

[Fathi Radwan article: "Bravo Mr Reagan!"]

[Excerpts] Bravo Mr Reagan and a thousand Bravos. I almost said well done, Mr Reagan, but I remembered that the U.S. Presidency does not know a single word of Arabic, except that Koranic verse which Mr Jimmy Carter learned by heart and came here to recite before the People's Assembly members as a means of promoting the treaty of shame and loss that Al-Sadat concluded without caring what it was going to bring upon him in this world and the world thereafter. Jimmy said: "If they incline toward peace you incline as well." Al-Sadat's deputies cheered, applauded, and stamped the floor with their feet. It is as if the Muslims' Koran is devoid of verses that curse the sons of Israel and call for jihad against them and for their eradication because of their treachery, falsehoods, and injustice.

Reagan deserves to be congratulated by the Egyptians and the Arabs because he has taught us a lesson which we hope will be the last. The man spared no words or actions to make us understand that we will obtain from him no security, no peace, no arms, no food, and no clothes except enough to keep us on the verge of death and in a state of emaciation.

Yes, this is our state of affairs with Mr Reagan and his ilk in the West and in the United States since Woodrow Wilson, who promised lasting world peace and a world in which self-determination prevails, began his term with a major fraud operation in which he recognized Britain's protection of Egypt. Still neither the Egyptians nor the Arabs have been cured of their chronic disease, the disease of believing in U.S. tricks known in Cairo streets and alleys some 50 years ago.

Well done, Mr Reagan, which in a foreign language is bravo and in Turkish afarim. You have at last, we hope, awakened us from our dreams and ended our delusions. You will not allow us, today and tomorrow and as long as you can, to have a Palestinian state, not even on one single square centimeter of Judea and Samaria, even if the PLO accepts Resolutions 242 and 338.

The only peace that Mr Reagan and the members of the international mafia — people like Shultz, Haig, and the ultra-Zionist Kissinger — endorse is to have a Palestinian administration appended to Jordan in which the Palestinians, who have suffered misery and humiliation, will be allowed what is allowed a mouse in a trap because they have left their cause in the hands of Arab politicians who worship and obey the American god, before whom they burn incense, and on whose head they place laurel wreaths.

President Mubarak's trip to the United States was certainly necessary and indispensable following his recent moves to absolve himself of blame and to expose Reagan and his administration. What the Washington mafia and its gangs spread worldwide blame us for is that the Arabs are not moving and are relying on the U.S. Administration as if they were babies like those who die in millions in Ethiopia.

In fact we have gained something considerable. After years of restraint and caution and refraining from hurting the feelings of a Washington Administration that feels no shame and has no sense, President Mubarak, at the end of his visit, stood at the entrance to the White House, and said to its incumbent the heated and serious words that he deserves to hear.

He told him that the U.S. stand is defeatist. He told him that U.S. interests are not too far from the reach of the hands of the extremists whom his [Reagan's] policy has created and that his policy will create new generations of them. He said that Jordan's alliance with the PLO means that the organization has opted for peace.

Briefly, what President Mubarak said were great words but and I hope that his excellency will not be angry if we say this such words constitute a broad stride in the right direction and toward the policy that must be adopted. We congratulate President Mubarak for having said what he said and we press his hands in admiration and support. What is required is that he should stick to and maintain this policy. He should also know again without anger — that what he did not say was even greater.

Yes, President Mubarak should have told Reagan at the White House entrance: Mr President, no one in the whole Arab world any longer believes in you, your administration, or your state. No one imagines that the Palestinians will obtain one iota what they have rightfully been fighting for. What you have done today, what you did in the past, and what your predecessors have done has confirmed that you do not want any peace in the area, nor do you want any Arab presence, because you are afraid of the Arabs having a secure and stable state in this area, God's most precious creation and the land of civilizations and cultures and later of prophecies and messages. You, the Europeans and Americans, have built your kingdom from A to Z on plundering our livelihood, stealing our wealth, destroying our civilization, enslaving our sons, and raping our daughters. Therefore, you cannot tolerate seeing the area liberated. For this reason you have delegated the sons of Israel to spread in the area destruction, ruination, seditions, and wars, and to set up a prostitution place. You have given them money and protected them with the United Nations which you have created to be a tool in your hands and which has defended thieves of all types, such as Israel, South africa, and hundreds of your agents throughout the world.

Mr President, you said, without shame, that you will not intervene until the parties concerned resolve their problems among themselves and accept a negotiating situation that would lead to a greater rapprochement between the Arabs and those who have stolen their land, the Israelis. Only then will the United States intervene with its majestic status. Despite this deception and fraud, we accept this on one simple condition which any person with minimum integrity and sincerity would accept. We accept this, Mr Reagan, on the condition that you will not be biased in favor of either party. Leave us alone with Israel, to agree and disagree, fight and make peace until the situation is stabilized and all the parties will agree for the United States to intervene so that it will not suffer what it suffered in Lebanon when it left there with the Lebanese bootmarks stamped on the backside of its heroes.

We have accepted your argument, Mr Reagan, and understood your excuse. Leave us alone with the sons of Israel and do not turn down with a U.S. veto every draft resolution put to the Security Council. Do not give billions to the exhausted Israel and it will soon be standing at the UN gate with its Shamirs, Sharons, Shim'ons, and Sha'uls begging for charity. Only then will Israel shed its false arrogance and pretensions and willingly accept and even be thankful and grateful for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, a Palestinian state with its own flag and army.

But, Mr Reagan, you explicitly and implicitly instigate Israel to reject every initiative, even your own initiative. You refuse to let its representatives sit down with the PLO representatives, although you know, as every child and political scientist knows, that merely by sitting with Israel at the negotiating table the PLO would be recognizing Israel and accepting to deal with it. But you, Mr Reagan, you want to place in the path of the understanding you allegedly advocate every obstacle possible, so that war and destruction will continue to be the lot of the miserable area.

But the generation which in the past was kicked and slapped by colonialism and was the victim of its conspiracies and designs, has gone. It will be replaced by the generation which had its first experience in Lebanon and which chased Uncle Sam until he was forced to retreat.

President Reagan's recent attitude toward President Mubarak was a lesson for everyone who imagines that talks could lead to any solution, resolve any problem, or bring about conciliation between two antagonists. For this reason Mr Reagan deserves thanks and congratulations. Bravo, Mr Reagan, and a heartfelt bravo.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Criticizes U.S. 'Bias' Toward Israel

NC230641 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 23 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "Complete Bias," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* writes editorially today that the complete U.S. bias toward Israel is constantly increasing and assuming new dimensions that threaten stability and peace in the Middle East. The paper points out that a few days ago the U.S. representative to the Security Council vetoed a draft resolution condemning Israel's repressive measures in southern Lebanon. Yesterday, U.S. President Reagan refused to blame Israel for its bloody repressive practices in southern Lebanon. These practices recently resulted in the death of two U.S. television network correspondent. All indications affirm that they were killed by an Israeli tank shell, which was perhaps even manufactured in the United States.

In addition, President Reagan has again refused to hold a dialogue with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on the pretext that the PLO has not yet recognized either Israel's right to exist or Security Council Resolution 242. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* adds: Naturally, the U.S. refusal to condemn Israel and its armed repressive policy in Lebanon and its refusal to hold a dialogue with the PLO, whom the Palestinian people have chosen to represent and speak for them, affirm that the United States is biased toward Israel's position with all its implications and details.

Concluding its editorial, the paper writes that this U.S. position cannot lead to a just and permanent peace, and asserts that U.S. insistance on bias toward Israel is endless.

Cairo Urges Peace, Not Libya's Terrorism

NC221612 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani commentary: "Peace Is a Value Beyond the Understanding of Terrorism"]

[Text] Libya's ruler lost his senses when it became clear to him that solidarity among the moderate Arab forces has become a fact. This was most recently manifested in the tripartite Arab summit conference in Baghdad, which included Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq, and earlier the PLO. What has enraged the Libyan ruler is Iraqi participation in the peace process. He thought that the Gulf war, which he had sought to worsen, had completely isolated Iraq from the peace efforts. Since Egypt is an important power for stability and peace in the Middle East, a fact to which the world can testify, this was enough for the Libyan ruler to antagonize the Egyptian people, government, and opposition. This Libyan ruler is prey to the doctrine of terrorism. His lack of scruples has made him fit to be a terrorist. He is poor because what is happening now, what has happened, and what will happen only serve to worsen his sick condition.

Egypt is undertaking large-scale international exchanges with nonaligned countries and with permanent members of the UN Security Council to forge ahead toward a just and peaceful solution to the Middle East problem, and to put an end to the Gulf war. This sick ruler will be even more miserable, for there exist other undeclared Egyptian-Arab exchanges to attain a unified Arab stance that would achieve a minimum degree of solidarity necessary for peace.

This sick ruler's problem is that he imagines himself qualified to lead the Arabs. But leadership in these critical circumstances requires abilities beyond his potential. He can only plant mines in the seas, blow up installations, hijack planes, and shed blood. These are crimes which can be committed by a capable terrorist. We admit to him that he is a terrorist whose skill has surpassed that of all terrorists. We do not deny him the right to brag about this since his name heads the list of international terrorists.

However, Arab leadership requires God-fearing leaders who are wise, brave, and noble, capable of self-control, and who cannot be controlled by lies, expansionist ambitions, and terrorism. The Palestinian issue is the Arabs' primary issue. It is a complicated problem. The biggest impasse facing the Arab nation today is its inability to exploit its material and human potentials for the sake of building a unified stance on this issue.

It is no longer permissible for the Arabs to continue accepting claims by extremists hostile to peace. We need peace because we are part of this world. The extremist minority of Arab rulers, exemplified by Libya's ruler, are the ones against any Arab gathering that seeks peace. By its deviationist behavior, this extremist minority is perpetuating the same goals which the Arab nation's enemies sought to perpetuate since the beginning of Arab civilization, which flourished with Islam and spread throughout the world. These enemies had said that the Arabs' early civilization would only be achieved by the sword and through terrorism, thereby disavowing that peace, which is beyond the understanding of terrorism, would continue to be the essence of this civilization forever.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Communique No 1,780

JN221744 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,780 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The brave soldiers of the truth are daily affirming the defeat of evil and evildoers. They are practically demonstrating that glorious, proud Iraq will go from one victory to another until its enemies yield to justice and peace.

The following is a summary of operations for last night and today:

1. In retaliation for the Iranian rulers' daily crimes against our people, land, and country, and in response to the Iranian rulers' insistence on continuing the war and aggression, our Air Force carried out a series of bold raids on selected targets in the Iranian cities of Bushehr, Arak, and Hamadan at 1150 [0830 GMT] this morning. After accurately pounding their targets, our brave Air Force eagles returned safe and triumphant, praise be to God.

Let the Khomeyniites know that we will continue to strike everywhere and at all times until they heed the calls of justice and peace. Success comes from God.

2. Our giant planes are pursuing our criminal enemy everywhere. While our planes were patrolling the Iranian airspace in order to strike the evildoers in their dens, other planes of our Air Force launched a lightning raid on a very large maritime target near Khark Island. Our planes scored an accurate, violent hit at 1430 today and returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our unbeaten Air Force eagles continued to pour Iraqi anger on defeated enemy concentrations in the East Tigris and Central sectors, destroying the Khomeyniite remnants. Our aircraft carried out 133 combat missions and returned safe and triumphant in God's protection.

4. With strong determination, the brave helicopter pilots are proving their outstanding ability to deal crippling blows to defeated enemy remnants. They carried out 55 successful missions in the East Tigris sector today, pursuing enemy concentrations and boats and dealing them accurate hits. They destroyed 25 boats, 2 antiaircraft guns, and 1 observation post, after which they returned safe and triumphant, praise be to God.

5. Our brave artillery men directed their fire at enemy targets in the Maysan sector, killing seven enemy soldiers and destroying one tubular rocket launcher, one infantry position, one SPG-9 gun emplacement, one machinegun emplacement, and one observation post. They also burned a hardware stockpile.

6. Our forward units opened artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions and engineering efforts east of Basra, killing four of the enemy and burning two large vehicles, killing their occupants. Our units also destroyed one infantry position and one machinegun emplacement, killing those manning them. The enemy was seen evacuating its casualties.

7. Two were killed, one infantry position was destroyed, and one hardware stockpile was burned in the Central sector.

8. Insisting on its aggression, the criminal enemy shelled a number of residential areas in the suburbs of Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, and Sayyid Sadiq at various times. Four citizens were martyred in Sayyid Sadiq and two were injured. Seven houses were destroyed in Khanaqin.

These and other crimes stress the importance of Iraq's continuous strikes at selected Iranian targets until the Iranian rulers stop their aggression and accept final peace.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 March 1985

Communique No 1,781

JN231728 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,781 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The glorious sons of Iraq, who are defending their land, future, and security, will — with the help of God — continue their splendid victories over the clique of evil ruling in Iran, thus proving that no will rises above the peoples' will for freedom, justice, and human dignity.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our Air Force carried out 18 combat missions against enemy positions, equipment, and troop concentrations in the East Tigris operational sector. The sky hawks returned safely, praise be to God, after inflicting losses in personnel and equipment.

2. With great efficiency and capability, our bold helicopter gunships continued to pursue the defeated enemy remnants in the East Tigris operational sector, dealing them effective blows. Our helicopters destroyed four enemy boats and killed their occupants. They also destroyed two antiaircraft machinegun emplacements and set fire to other enemy positions.

3. One of our forward units delivered concentrated artillery strikes against two enemy boats opposite our positions in the East Tigris operational sector and managed to completely destroy them and to kill their occupants. Elsewhere in the same sector some of our forward units found large quantities of serviceable weapons and hardware that the defeated enemy units left behind in the immortal Hawr al-Hawizah battles.

4. Our forward units delivered violent artillery strikes against selected enemy positions in the East Basra sector, scoring direct hits and inflicting losses in personnel and equipment. Our units also killed six enemy troops, destroyed one infantry position, and

started fires in other areas. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses.

5. Three infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants killed in the Central sector of the operational theater.

6. In cowardly practices, the disappointed enemy forces shelled at various times several populated areas in Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, Zurbatiyah, and Sayyid Sadiq with heavy artillery. The enemy shelling demolished 5 houses and a hospital ward and damaged 10 other houses in Khanaqin. It also wounded two civilians and demolished four houses in Sayyid Sadiq.

7. Fleeing the sanguinary regime ruling in Iran, several Iranian military men sought refuge with one of our forward units at the battlefront. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 March 1985

Communique No 1,782

JN231823 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1744 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,782 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O proud Iraqis, splendid victory continues to be yours, and both defeat and disappointment continue to be the lot of your enemies. Your Armed Forces, which defeated all the remnants and equipment the Khomeyniites assembled on the immortal days of the East Tigris epic, are now dealing ground, sea, and air blows to the enemy in all the operational sectors. They are your sons, the heroes of Iraq, who will continue to pursue the criminal Khomeyniites tirelessly and who exhausted the enemy of God, as well as your enemy, and left it powerless. Meanwhile, the determination and capability of your sons are escalating and their efforts and jihad are blessed by God everywhere and at every time.

In accordance with the sound directives of the leader of victory, Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, the heroes of the I Army Corps, under the command of the special forces' Staff Major General Nizar 'Abd al-Karim Faysal, launched a resolute offensive [Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1810 GMT on 23 March in a similar report adds: "on the night of 22-23 March"] with units from the valiant 27th Division under the command of the special forces' Staff Brigadier Geenral Kamil Kashif 'Aziz.

The heroes of the Alqa'qa' shock troops from the formations affiliated to this division under the command of the special forces' Brigadier General 'Ali Husayn Miz'il attacked the enemy positions in the vantage points 1730 and 1332. After fierce fighting characterized by audacity and enthusiasm, our brave heroes managed to climb the peaks of mountains and occupy all the targets fixed for them, destroying the enemy forces and expelling the rabble Khomeyniites. The situation was settled in favor of our units in their new positions and the enemy sustained over 100 dead and large numbers of wounded. Many other enemy troops were also captured and 65 weapons and 6 communication devices were seized.

Congratulations on your victory and may God bless the valiant men of the I Army Corps and the heroic 27th Division command forces, God bless the brave Alqa'qa' shock troops who fought with true perfection. We thank God for this victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 March 1985

Saddam Cabled on Offensive

JN231938 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Mar (INA) — The special forces' Staff Brigadier General Kamil 'Aziz, commander of the 27th Infantry Division, has described the offensive operation he commanded against Iranian positions in the I Army Corps sector last night as a quick, lightning battle that drove the enemy out of its mind. In a cable to President Saddam Husayn, he stressed that the enemy left its dead and weapons in the battlefield and that none of the enemy escaped death except those who surrendered or fled in panic.

Communique No 1,783

JN241740 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,783 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Iranian rulers, who continue to reject peace calls and insist on aggression, must daily suffer Iraq's continued blows to selected targets deep inside their territory, to their oil supply routes, and to their troop concentrations until they submit to right and accept the call for comprehensive peace.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In continuation of our firm and legitimate course of depriving the Iranian rulers of their only source of financing their aggression, our valiant Air Force carried out successful raids against two large maritime targets near Khark Island at 1115 [0815 GMT] today. After accurately hitting their targets, our valiant hawks returned with their planes, safe and triumphant, praise be to God.

2. The valiant hawks of the air pursued their feats over the battlefield, continuing to reap the corrupt heads belonging to the Khomeyniite remnants in the East Tigris operational sector, inflicting on the enemy heavy losses in life and equipment. They returned with their planes, safe and triumphant, praise be to God, after carrying out 44 combat missions.

3. The heroes of the helicopter gunships carried out daring and successful raids against enemy boats and weapon emplacements

in the East Tigris operational sector. During the 10 combat sorties by our helicopter gunships, 5 boats and 1 rocket launcher were destroyed. Our helicopter gunships returned safe and triumphant, praise be to God.

4. Our forward units pounded enemy positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing 15, wounding many, and destroying 1 observation post.

5. Formations belonging to our forward units dealt concentrated artillery blows to enemy positions, weapon emplacements, and military hardware in the East Basra operational sector, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy, killing three enemy troops, destroying one antitank gun and one medium-caliber machinegun, and setting six vehicles on fire.

6. An enemy troop concentration was sighted in the Maysan sector. Our forces dealt with it with artillery and tanks and the enemy sustained several dead or wounded. Two infantry positions and one machinegun were also destroyed.

7. The criminal enemy shelled at various times Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, Sayyid Sadiq, and Khurmal. As a result of the enemy shelling, two citizens were wounded and two houses were demolished in Sayyid Sadiq and two houses were demolished and three vehicles were damaged in Khanaqin.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 March 1985

Lloyds on Tanker Nationality

JN241355 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] London, 24 Mar (INA) — A British Lloyds Insurance Company source has stated that two oil tankers were hit by Iraqi missiles south of the Iranian Khark Island. The source said that one of these tankers is the Maltese tanker *Eastern Star* while the second is the Italian tanker *(Boledo)*. In a statement to INA today, the source added that the Maltese tanker has a tonnage of 30,380 and the Italian tanker is a giant tanker. He added that Lloyds will publish more details on the damages the two tankers sustained after the company receives more details from its experts.

Jets Raid Tehran, Kashan

JN250613 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0546 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

We said and continue to say in public and within earshot of the entire world that if the Iranian rulers are obsessed by crime to such an extent, thirsty for blood, and fond of destruction, they must choose a place other than Iraq as a target for their ambitions and as a field for their crimes. As for us in Iraq, the country of loftiness, power, and justice, we can shake the earth under their feet and make them alone the victim of their crimes. We can also destroy their houses over their heads and can select our targets inside Iran everywhere and at every time.

Thus, in retaliation for their strikes against Baghdad and the other cities, our Air Force launched violent raids against selected targets in Tehran and Kashan at 0415 [0115 GMT] today. After hitting their targets violently, our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God. Let the Tehran rulers know that we will reply to the weapons extended to them by the Arab servants of Zionism with fierce strikes that will have a destructive impact on them and on their allies and masters. Success comes from God.

[Dated] 25 March 1985

Tabriz, Hamadan, Esfahan Raided

JN251354 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1344 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our Air Force carried out several raids against selected targets in Tabriz, Hamadan, and Esfahan. After accurately pounding their targets, our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God. Thus, the number of cities struck since dawn today has reached five cities, including the capital of Tehran. Let the Iranian rulers know that this is our retaliation for their shelling of our cities and for not heeding the peace call. We will continue to strike at every place and at any time until they acknowledge the call for comprehensive peace.

[Dated] 25 March 1985

President Saddam Husayn Inspects Villages

JN221808 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn today inspected several villages in Baghdad governorate. During his tour of the villages, President Saddam Husayn acquainted himself with the level of their agricultural production for this season. The villagers expressed their great love for the president and their pleasure in meeting him. They congratulated his excellency on the great victory the Iraqi forces achieved in the battle of Hawr al-Hawizah against the rancorous Khomeyni clique.

'Aziz Arrives for UN Security Council Meeting

JN240823 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] New York, 24 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in New York today to attend the UN Security Council meetings on the Iraqi-Iranian war developments. Last week, the Security Council held a meeting at Iraq's request to discuss the international committee's special report on POW's and the war developments and adjourned its meetings until a later date.

Meets Perez de Cuellar

JN250837 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0712 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] New York, 25 Mar (INA) — Iraq has expressed its confidence in the United Nations, its establishments, and its secretary general in order to reach a comprehensive and just solution to the Iraqi-Iranian war.

This came during the meeting Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar here yesterday. They discussed the latest developments of the Iranian aggression against Iraq. Tariq 'Aziz explained to the secretary general Iraq's position regarding what the United Nations should do at this critical time in the region.

Tariq 'Aziz also met with the UN Security Council president yesterday afternoon and acquainted him with the developments of the grave situation in the region and the details of the abortive Iranian aggression against Iraq.

In another development, the Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister held separate meetings with the UN permanent representatives of France, Britain, and Egypt.

Later today, Tariq 'Aziz is scheduled to leave New York for Washington where he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Attacks on Jordanian Airline Offices Denounced

JN222026 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] An official spokesman has denounced the recent attacks on Jordanian airline offices in a number of European capitals. The spokesman said that such deeds are acts of sabotage aimed at shedding Arab blood, something which the Arab nation's enemies applaud. The spokesman expressed Iraq's sympathy with the Jordanian brothers, who are harmed by such acts.

Planning Minister Confers With Polish Official

JN251159 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0938 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj met with Manfred Gorywoda, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers and chairman of the Planning Committee, and his delegation here today. They reviewed the areas of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Housing Minister Meets With Poland's Waszak

JN251200 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — Muhammad Fadil Husayn, minister of housing and construction, met with Edward Waszak, under secretary of state at the Polish Ministry of Construction and Construction Materials Industry, here today. They reviewed the areas of cooperation in the housing and construction sectors and ways to promote them.

Fatah's Salah Khalaf Leaves Baghdad 22 Mar

JN231758 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1611 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, left Baghdad last night following a 3-day official visit to Iraq. During the visit, he met with a number of Iraqi officials. He also met with the Palestinian community in Baghdad and the Palestine Liberation Army fighters in Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Iranian Attempts To Hide Losses

JN240813 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0657 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Mar (INA) — The newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* has said that the Iranian regime cannot hide its immense losses in the recent Hawr al-Hawizah battles. In an editorial today, the paper added that the Iranian regime is trying to belittle its defeat by alleging that its recent aggression against Iraq was a limited operation, aimed at realizing limited aims. This is an attempt to deny the failure of their final offensive, of which they had boasted for a long time. The paper noted that the Iranian rulers are exerting exceptional efforts to absorb the shock, pacify fear, and alleviate the effects of the defeat by various means.

AL-JUMHURIYAH pointed out that the Iranian people will soon discover the real Iranian losses in Hawr al-Hawizah and east of Tigris. It said in conclusion that hollow claims do not create victory or hide defeat. It added that the Iranian rulers may hold the memory and minds of the Iranian people in contempt, but they will discover in the not too distant future that they are only deceiving themselves.

King Receives Call From Iraq's Saddam Husayn

JN231905 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a telephone call from His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. President Saddam Husayn denounced the cowardly attacks on three offices belonging to the Royal Jordanian Airlines, Alia, in three European capitals last week.

President Saddam Husayn described these actions as having nothing to do with our nation's morals and traditions. He said that these actions are aimed at shedding Arab blood and weakening pan-Arab efforts. He added that these are the objectives of our nation's enemies. His excellency wished speedy recovery for the victims of these despicable attacks.

President Saddam Husayn has also assured His Majesty King Husayn of the military situation on the front. He said that this situation is, as usual, a strong one supported with the high morale of the men in the domestic front and at the frontlines.

President Saddam Husayn said that the Iraqi forces are continuing to strike at the Iranian enemy's military strength, and that these forces have forced the Iranian enemy to evacuate some of its positions opposite the Iraqi forces.

'Only a Few Months Remain' To Save Mideast Peace

AU241427 Paris AFP in English 1216 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Madrid, March 24 (AFP) — King Husayn of Jordan warned in an interview published here today that "only a few months remain" to save the peace in the Middle East.

King Husayn, who tomorrow begins a three-day official visit to Spain, told the daily *EL PAIS* that because of the deteriorating Middle East situation in the last two years, "every moment counts."

(Meanwhile in Amman, a reliable source said that negotiations were currently under way to set up a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that may meet with the United States to discuss a future Mideast settlement as outlined by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat in a February 11 agreement.

(The source said the Jordanian side of the delegation would be headed by Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. A Western diplomatic source said the Palestinian side might be led by Walid Khalidy, a teacher at the American University in Beirut.

(Mr. Khalidy, who is not a PLO member, is said to have the approval of PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Other Palestinian West Bank personalities may also be named to the delegation, which could draw fire from members of the PLO's Executive Committee who want the delegation to be composed of PLO representatives.

(Washington refuses to meet the Palestine Liberation Organisation until it explicitly recognises Israel's right to exist.)

More on EL PAIS Interview

JN241903 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that Jordan is exerting its utmost efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. In a statement to the Spanish newspaper *EL PAIS*, published in Madrid today, his majesty added that very significant facts have emerged recently, such as the agreement that was reached between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people — an agreement that constitutes a base for building a joint Arab stand.

His majesty pointed out that we are proceeding on the right course to reach a just peaceful solution to the Palestine question based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy. His Majesty King Husayn added that the PLO, which represents the Palestinian people's aspirations, hopes, and desires, will be a major party in an agreement to convene an international conference for peace if efforts being exerted in this regard succeed.

His majesty pointed to the tripartite Jordanian-Egyptian- Iraqi summit that was held in Baghdad. He described this summit as a fruitful meeting that has come to express the support of Jordan and Egypt for Iraq in its just war to defend its land and its nation's dignity. He said that Baghdad has accepted all peace initiatives to end the Iraq-Iran war and has positively responded to all international efforts to end this war.

Answering a question on the possibility of Spain's recognition of Israel, His Majesty King Husayn said: "This is related to Spain's evaluation of its interests and historic relations with the Arab world. He said: "If this should happen, and we hope that it will not take place, hostile Arab reactions will follow this step. His majesty said that there has always been excellent relations between Spain and Jordan. He said that these relations were established on strong bases as a result of the visit that the late King 'Abdallah had paid to Spain in 1949. His majesty added: Our relations with Spain, in particular, are valuable. He said: We believe in the importance of Arab-Spanish relations and friendship proceeding from the fact that Spain believes in the same principles and ideas in which we believe. His majesty pointed to the relations of friendship between him and His Majesty Juan Carlos, and the Spanish king's great contribution to his country and to the world. His majesty has also pointed to Spain's role in Europe, Latin America, and the international arena. His Majesty King Husayn said that his official visit to Spain is a great way to promote bilateral relations on all levels.

King Husayn, Delegation Leave for Spain

JN251121 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman for Spain this morning on a 3-day official visit at the invitation of His Majesty King Juan Carlos and Her Majesty Queen Sofia. His Majesty King Husayn will hold talks with His Majesty King Juan Carlos and senior Spanish officials on the Middle East situation and relations between the two friendly countries. His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by

Her Highness Princess Basmah and her husband Walid al-Kurdi, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

His Highness Crown Price Hasan took the constitutional oath as regent in front of His Majesty King Husayn and the Cabinet members.

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri Visits U.S.

Meets Secretary of State

JN231642 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Washington — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri met with the U.S. secretary of state for the second time today in Washington. He said he exchanged viewpoints with Shultz on how to push the peace process forward in the Middle East. He also stressed Jordan's stand based on the principle of land in exchange for peace as included in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The meeting was attended by Jordan's Ambassador in Washington Ibrahim 'Iz al-Din, Richard Murphy, and a number of the U.S. secretary of state's aides.

Al-Masri had met earlier with several scholars and researchers who specialize in Middle Eastern affairs from the contemporary studies center in Georgetown University. He also met with several representatives of the Arab and foreign press in the U.S. capital.

Comments on U.S. Role

JN232009 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Washington]

[Text] At the conclusion of his talks in Washington, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri expressed his belief that the United States has retreated from its position, which is based on the Reagan initiative, that the United States should play an effective role in the peace process. The only thing that the United States wants now from the Arabs is to negotiate with Israel directly. Shultz, as Tahir al-Masri put it, is pursing a cautious policy, and the United States does not want to involve itself in the peace process as strongly as it had done before.

[Begin Al-Masri recording] They have retreated from the objective of the Reagan initiative. There have been initiatives, there have been specific ideas, and the overall initiative says there is a U.S. role. Now, they tell us to hold direct negotiations. This is what I am talking about. You say there is a U.S. role. We want that U.S. role, and we believe that because of its weight, its importance, and its relations with the two sides, the United States has a very important role. [end recording]

It is obvious that the United States has not yet defined its position, although there is hope that a specific position and new ideas will be presented by Murphy during his tour of Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. Following the talks that have been held by President Husni Mubarak and the Jordanian foreign minister, it is obvious that Washington wants to postpone its decision. Even President Reagan's statement at a press conference on a U.S. agreement to hold a dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without PLO members has raised arguments within the State Department, which immediately issued a statement explaining Reagan's statement that the solution can be achieved only through direct negotiations between the two sides, and that the United States is not a party to this dispute. Richard Murphy, who will leave for the region, said that Washington will not hold negoations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation before direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel takes place, because the United States is not a party to this dispute.

At the same time, Shultz announced to Tahir al-Masri, following their second and last meeting last night, that the Middle East is the place where all moves to reactivate peace should occur, but any visits to Washington is another thing. The forthcoming move to fill the gap in the U.S. role will take place during Murphy's visit to the region, which will take place in 10 days. Following this visit, the Algerian president will visit Washington, and Jordan, as Tahir al-Masri put it, will send an envoy to Algeria to meet with the Algerian president before the latter leaves for Washington next month. Jordan wants to use Algerian influence in order to improve the U.S. position.

Returns, Makes Statement

JN241918 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri returned to Amman this evening after an official visit to the United States. During this visit, he held talks with U.S. officials. Our correspondent Muhammad al-Tarawinah held the following interview with the foreign minister on his visit to the United States.

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarawinah] Your Excellency, the foreign minister. You have paid an official visit to the United States. Can you explain the main points you discussed with U.S. officials?

[Al-Masri] I have met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, with the vice president, with the president's adviser for national security affairs, as well as with a number of senior State Department and White House officials. I also met with chairmen of committees and subcommittees in the U.S. Congress, as well as with the members of these committees. We held intense discussions on relations between the two countries and ways to develop them. I also explained to these officials the meaning and importance of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the dire need to move quickly to solve Middle East issues and the Palestine question because it seems that it is now time for such a move. I also stressed Jordan's position that is based on the principle of land in exchange for peace and on the need to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

All the U.S. officials have expressed support for the brave positions of his majesty the king and the Jordanian leadership and for the positions and the moves we adopt. They also stressed the improtance of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and they will exert their efforts in the future to find ways to support that agreement and activate the peace process more seriously and more quickly. But regrettably, the United States does not want to recognize the PLO and its representation at present. Needless to say, I focused on the PLO's legitimacy, on our adherence to this legitimacy, and on the need for the PLO to participate in any future negotiations within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. [end recording]

Crown Prince Hasan on Peace, UN Resolutions

JN231205 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Mar 85 pp 1, 24

[Text] London, QNA — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that it is impossible to continue the peace process in the Middle East with the occupation of Lebanon, establishment of Jewish settlements, and Judaization of land and water in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. His highness said that the Israelis realize there will be no peace of which they will be reassured so long as they keep more than 3 million Palestinian refugees outside their homeland. He pointed out that most Israelis realize a military solution is not the real solution to the Middle East problem. Prince Hasan urged European countries to expand their activities and moves on the Middle East problem. At the same time he pointed out the important role which the USSR should play together with the United States to guarantee peace in the region.

In a statement to the Lebanese magazine *AL-SAYYAD* to be published in this week's issue, the prince added that Security Council Resolutions 242 of 1967 and 338 give a sufficient legal and political answer to Israel's fears regarding security, because these two resolutions stress withdrawal from land in exchange for peace. He said: Resolution 242 establishes a substantive balance between Israel's security and the Palestinian right to self-determination. He noted that Resolution 338 calls for implementing 242. Prince Hasan pointed out that current Israeli policies have no firm and long-term foundation. He asserted that no country can build its existence on such a basis.

AL-RA'Y Criticizes 'Hardline U.S. Position' on PLO

JN230725 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Mar 85 pp 1, 28

[Editorial "The Exposed Maneuver"]

[Text] The U.S. stand has achieved neither progress nor balance toward the Palestine cause through President Reagan's approval of holding a dialogue between his administration and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This is because the approval was conditional on excluding the PLO from participating in the delegation. It is obvious that this U.S. condition will keep a main party to the delegation — the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people — away from the dialogue. This means that the hardline U.S. position has not changed despite the important development entailed in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

Even this conditional approval was not accepted by Israel. Shamir announced that the dialogue with the U.S. side will not give momentum to the peace process. He said the dialogue should take place with Israel.

It is obvious that the U.S. Administration wants to show that it has taken a step forward through its conditional approval. It is not unlikely that Israel will reluctantly agree to hold the dialogue under the U.S. condition so that it will show that it, too, made a great concession and took a big step toward peace. Thus, both the U.S. and Israeli sides will practice the game of deceptive flexibility in order to show the world that the ball is in the Arab court and that the Arabs should make concessions represented in relinquishing the PLO and in excluding it from the dialogue.

The U.S.-Israeli game of distributing roles is exposed and can deceive no one. The U.S. Administration should abandon its condition to exclude the PLO from the dialogue if it is serious about giving the peace process momentum. Real peace in the region cannot be achieved by excluding the PLO from real participation in a just settlement of the cause.

In light of this outcome, it is obvious that the Arabs are facing a U.S.-Israeli maneuver. The Arabs should be alert and should warn of the objectives of this maneuver, especially since the maneuver wants to show the PLO as an obstacle to the peace march in the region. The real obstacle is represented in U.S. and Israeli disregard for the Palestinian people's political presence, which is embodied in the PLO. The U.S.-Israeli collusion aims at excluding the PLO and at preventing it from practicing its natural role toward the cause. It is obvious that the U.S. condition to exclude the PLO from participating in the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue with the U.S. Administration is one link in the chain of this collusion.

SAWT AL-SHA'B on U.S. Conditions for Dialogue

JN240847 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Mar 85 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Washington — Conditions and Reservations Concerning Peace"]

[Text] It appears from the statements made by the U.S. President and his secretary of state concerning the Arab peace move that, while it welcomes the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as a step toward peace, Washington prefers to have the full opportunity to examine and evaluate recent Middle East developments before agreeing to any U.S. role to reactivate the peace process in the Middle East. The statement Shultz made following his talks with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri confirms the United States' interest in the substance of the Jordanian-Palestinian move and its readiness to evolve a new stand under certain basic conditions and reservations, which in themselves constitute preconditions for any new U.S. move to reactivate the peace process.

The United States believes there is a serious move toward peace and it is interested in keeping the ball rolling, as the secretary of state said. However, it is more interested in pushing matters toward a Palestinian and Arab recognition of the State of Israel as a precondition for its recognition of the PLO and its acceptance of the organization on equal footing with the other parties to the Middle East dispute. This stand in itself constitutes the peak of partiality toward the Israeli stand. This is because the one presently asking for recognition of its rights and existence is the Palestinian side, which is seeking to wrest its rights from the Israeli usurpers.

Recognition of the Palestinians and their legitimate representative is the key to a realistic settlement in the Middle East. Firmly rejecting the PLO is a tacit decision to prevent the Palestinians' participation in the resolution of their question. This is because no Palestinian can take part in any peace talks without the PLO's approval. This point was stressed by the Jordanian foreign minister in Washington. The Arab peace move has set the condition that the Palestinians must play their role and assume their responsibility in the peace process on an equal footing with the others.

Israel, which is trying to reassert U.S. rejection of the Palestinian role, realizes that acceptance of the organization as a party in the peace process would mean tacit recognition of the sovereign rights of the Palestinian people, not as a community on Israeli territory, but as a people who enjoy the right of self-determination and equality with all the parties to the Middle East dispute.

Washington's condition that the PLO must first recognize the UN resolutions that support Israel's right to exist would have been more even handed if it had also called on Israel to recognize all the UN resolutions that provide for the Palestinian people's rights to their land and the inadmissibility of the annexation and Judaization of Palestinian land, which under international law is occupied territory, as a step toward tackling Palestinian rights.

The United States has announced its intention to dispatch a special envoy to the Middle East next month and its readiness to hold talks with Palestinians outside the PLO. This is an initial step that must end up with Washington's conviction about the impossibility of excluding the organization and the necessity to reciprocate Arab peace moves by positive moves of its own — moves that would open new horizons for the peace process in the region. Until this takes place, there must be an active Arab and international role that can counterbalance the U.S. role in order to save the peace move from the effect of Israeli influence on U.S. decisionmaking.

JORDAN TIMES Criticizes U.S. for Excluding PLO

JN251009 Amman JORDAN TIMES in Arabic
25 Mar 85 p 4

[Editorial: "The Weird Choice"]

[Text] It is difficult to understand this American insistence on the exclusion of official PLO representatives from peace talks. If you do not like a man but are willing to discuss your problems with his shadow in order to get results, then you have to start asking yourself questions about the way you are handling things.

Is it not better to talk to the man rather than his shadow?

Is this not a more reasonable approach to being realistic and solving problems, even if you do not like the choice?

What do you expect to get from a shadow anyway?

Well, if this is what the Arabs think, the Americans might argue, why are they themselves not talking to the Israelis directly? Why are they coming to us?

The fact is that the Arabs do want to talk to the Israelis. But they also know what the subject of discussion is. The Israelis, on the one hand, want to have their cake and eat it too.

They want Resolution 242 to be the subject of the debate, not the basis of negotiations. They want peace but are not inclined to give up the occupied territories in exchange for it. Where is the point in talking to them when this is indeed the case?

The Arabs, on the other hand, do not want to talk to the shadow of the Israelis. In the U.S., they would be talking to Israel's financier and benefactor — the country that should have the last word in whether Israel is going to have peace and security or more wars and suffering. Nothing more, nothing less.

Again, Jordan is not insisting on the full participation of the PLO purely for tactical reasons. The PLO exists and is the only legitimate voice of the Palestinian people, as Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri told the Americans on his recent Washington trip. Why ignore it, if the Americans and the Israelis want true peace in the Middle East? What kind of logic is this?

Fine if the American President has finally agreed to hold talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This is a positive step. But why does his State Department insist that the venue for such a dialogue has to be in the Middle East? Or don't the Americans want the President to be personally involved?

Israel does not mind contacts between Jordanians and non-PLO Palestinians, but still opposes negotiations taking place between these two parties, Shimon Peres said yesterday.

What does this mean, for God's sake? That Washington can make contacts with a shadow but cannot talk to it? Coming from Israel, this must be a weird choice.

But not for Israel, of course.

Islamic Jihad Kidnaps French Diplomats

NC221526 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Beirut, March 22 (AFP) — Two French diplomats and an embassy secretary were kidnapped today in Beirut by Moslem fundamentalists of the Islamic Jihad movement, anonymous callers speaking in the organization's name said.

The second of two callers to a Western news agency demanded that France halt negotiations to sell Mirage jet fighters to Saudi Arabia, and stop selling arms to Iraq in the Gulf war against Iran.

The abductions brought to six the number of Westerners seized in Beirut in the past eight days. All the operations have been claimed by Islamic Jihad.

The French vice-consul in Beirut, Marcel Fontaine, was kidnapped by two gunmen in West Beirut this morning as he was buying a newspaper in a shop near the consulate, the vendor said. The diplomat was bundled into a BMW sedan driven by a third man.

The second telephone caller said another French diplomat, Protocol Attache Marcel Carton, and his daughter Danielle Perez, an embassy secretary, had been kidnapped as well. The French Embassy had reported of the two only that they had gone missing while driving from home in East Beirut to the embassy.

In the first telephone call of responsibility, a man speaking for Islamic Jihad Beirut Command said Mr Fontaine was abducted "because he is an agent of French imperialism". The caller did not mention Mr Carton, 62, or Mrs Perez, 34, but the second caller said they were also seized and added that the first call was incomplete.

In Paris, the External Relations Ministry condemned the kidnapping of Mr Fontaine as an "act of terrorism."

Kidnapped American Pastor Sends Two Letters

NC230609 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] American Pastor Benjamin Weir, who was kidnapped in West Beirut some time ago, has sent two letters — one to his wife, the other to religious officials in New York. The letters are dated 28 February 1985. In the letters Weir says: I ask the U.S. Government to intercede with the Kuwaiti Government directly and seriously.

He adds: They [the kidnappers] have affirmed to me that when those imprisoned in Kuwait are released, they will release me and the other hostages.

Weir indicates that his kidnappers threatened to kill him if a third country interferes in this affair, especially Syria.

Italian Major Released Following Abduction

NC221212 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The Italian Embassy reported a little while ago that the Italian major in the UN forces was not kidnapped as mentioned. Gunmen stole his car near the Carlton Hotel in Al-Rawshah [in West Beirut] and released him after detaining him for some time.

Al-Jumayyil Addresses Cabinet Meeting 22 Mar

NC221316 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The Cabinet met at 1040 today under President Amin al-Jumayyil, with Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the ministers in attendance, except for ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Cabinet reviewed the situation in south Lebanon. President al-Jumayyil spoke about the painful incidents that have occurred because of Israel's practices. He praised the Lebanese people's steadfastness and adherence to their right to their land and existence. President al-Jumayyil criticized the indifference of the international community regarding what is happening to the innocent and peaceful citizens in the south. He pointed to the tragedies that have afflicted the southerners and to the destruction of their homes.

Discussing the situation in the Sidon area, President al-Jumayyil pointed out that reports he has received from the area are positive. He said that the situation there has turned to normal, that those who left the areas of Sidon and 'Abra have returned, and that the Lebanese Army has strengthened its positions and has expanded its deployment. He noted that this is a positive situation which encourages additional deployment of Army units in areas that Israel will evacuate.

President al-Jumayyil emphasized that the salvation and liberation process to save Lebanon is continuing despite all obstacles.

The Cabinet then discussed the legislative decrees. The Cabinet rescinded 23 decrees and amended 18 others.

President Visits Syria; Talks 'Positive,' 'Frank'

NC232157 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Excerpt] President Amin al-Jumayyil returned to Beirut this evening after a brief visit to Damascus. Informed sources in Beirut described his trip as positive and very frank. The same sources said that Damascus confirmed its support for our march toward national reconciliation.

Stopover in Cyprus

NC241231 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Excerpt] President Amin al-Jumayyil returned to Beirut at noon today. President al-Jumayyil spent last night in Larnaca, where he arrived yesterday evening by plane from Damascus. He met with the Cypriot president at Larnaca airport for approximately 1 and 1/4 hours, from 0900 to 1015, before he boarded a Lebanese military helicopter en route for Beirut.

Further on Cyprus Visit

For Nicosia coverage of the visit to Cyprus by President Amin al-Jumayyil, including his meeting with Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou, see the Cyprus section of the 25 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

Al-Turk Meets With Foreign Envoys on S. Lebanon

U.S., UK, USSR Envoys

NC221235 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, received U.S. ambassador to Lebanon Reginald Bartholomew at 1030 today. Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, Ghazi Shidyaq, director of international organizations at the Foreign Ministry, and Foreign Ministry adviser Farid 'Abbud attended the meeting. Ambassador al-Turk later received British Ambassador Henry Miers, who said after the meeting: I have no comments about the meeting. It is known that the Lebanese Government had wanted to draw my attention to events in the south. I don't wish to comment.

Asked about the operation of the British Embassy in Beirut, Ambassador Miers said: The Embassy will not open on Monday because of the security situation. I hope that I will be able to open the Embassy soon.

Ambassador Al-Turk then met with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov, who was accompanied by Embassy First Adviser (Yuri Suslikov). After the meeting, the Soviet ambassador said: It is known that the Soviet Union has been denouncing Israel's aggression from the beginning. He said: We believe that the aggressor must unconditionally withdraw from Lebanese territories. We strongly denounce Israel's actions in the south and its inhuman practices. We also strongly support Lebanon through all means.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources stated that the Foreign Ministry officials briefed the three diplomats on Israel's recent practices in the southern villages, which resulted in deaths and injuries, as well as in the destruction of many homes. The Foreign Ministry officials asked the envoys to use all means to stop these practices.

Meets French, PRC Envoys

NC232214 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has completed the consultations it began yesterday with the ambassadors of the five major powers on Israel's inhuman actions in the south, and on the future of the UNIFIL forces. Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, secretary general at the Foreign Ministry, held separate meetings today with French Ambassador Ferdinand Wibaux and PRC Ambassador Yu Mengxin. He briefed them on events that have taken place in the south within the past 48 hours, and on Israel's inhuman practices, which have been reported by the mass media.

Ambassador al-Turk later left for Tunis, where he will lead Lebanon's delegation to the 83d ordinary session of the Arab League Council, which will convene on 25 March. Ambassador al-Turk will deliver a speech at the opening session. His remarks will focus on Israel's arbitrary actions in occupied Lebanon, and on Lebanon's efforts to liberate its territory. He will also urge the Arab states to grant Lebanon the aid approved during the 1979 Tunis summit conference.

Karami Assails Israelis, Phalangist Division

NC221957 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Speech by Prime Minister Rashid Karami on the occasion of Child's Day at the opening of an exhibition of photographs and paintings at the Glass Hall in Beirut on 22 March — recorded]

[Excerpt] I am glad that we are here together in this pleasant place to celebrate both Child's Day and Mother's Day. Child's Day is a delightful occasion for hope, epitomizing a cheerful, relaxed, and reassuring future. These are features that we would see were every Lebanese to enjoy his life in dignity and with pride. This is not merely a dream. Each of us is entitled to a secure and happy life, despite the diabolic conspiracies of our enemies, despite their barbaric plots, which are meant to deny us peace and the chance to build this society on a truly democratic basis and on the basis of justice and equality, creating a society in which everyone will regard all others as brothers.

There in the south, we are confronting a usurper and an occupier who has loosed his most diabolic instincts in the most atrocious way against the innocent and the defensless, against the old, women, and children. This is an enemy that proves his racism, his Nazism, and his fascism everyday. This enemy is facing the best and most courageous of men and the most valiant possible national resistance, which scorns his weapons and humiliates his Army. This Army called itself invincible until it was proven otherwise in Lebanon. This is a source of pride for us. Such a small country has radiated such great faith, which we hope will spill over into every part of this area.

We are calling on our Arab brothers to take action, to feel for us, and to stand up for us. We are calling on them to do so because we are entrenched in this outpost, not only in defense of ourselves and our dignity, but in defense of all Arabs.

We deplore what is happening in East Beirut. By doing what they are doing, those involved are ignoring that this historic phase requires that all Lebanese close ranks and join forces in the face of the usurper, the occupier, who, though he has announced his withdrawals, is trying in vain to procrastinate. Despite all of his belligerency, we will keep on his heels until he disappears behind the border.

We ask those who claim to be speaking for Christianity: After what Christianity suffered for thousands of years in Palestine at the hands of the Jews, how can it now be defended in a way that serves only the Israeli enemy?

We denounce any such claims. We declare that the slogans they are raising are in vain, for they deceive no one. It would be better for them to return to the right path, so that we may work together to consolidate Lebanon's unity.

Nabih Birri on U.S., Terrorism, Phalangists

NC232112 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1816 GMT 23 Mar 85

[News conference held by Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] The legislative decrees that must be abolished have been abolished at last. Their abolition is not a national gain; it is the (?result) of a fight, which crystallized in the correction of grave mistakes committed earlier against all Lebanese. Hegemony in its clearest form was embodied in these decrees in all commercial, judicial, economic, social, and political fields.

This correction of mistakes is, as I said, a victory, but not a gain, for the national forces. I say so because what existed before the promulgation of these decrees should have been improved upon and developed. Mere abolition does not mean reform or development. Now that they have been abolished, we will resume our battle. The battle is headed toward reform. Therefore, this act of abrogation marks the beginning, but not the end, or even the middle, of the road. However, it was an inevitable step on the path to progress.

As for the report on the attack against French citizens, it's no longer enough to merely denounce such actions. It has become our duty to work seriously to expose those who engineer plots against the Muslims first, against nationalist Beirut second, and against our entire line of battle, which extends from the farthest reaches of the south to the ends of the earth. Those who try to distort Iran's Islamic revolution and to invent organizations claiming to be engaged in jihad on the streets of Beirut are neither fighters nor Muslims.

France has recently taken a different position at the UN Security Council from that of the United States, which conspires against the people of the south, and even from certain other Europeans. France was rewarded by attacks on some of its citizens and embassy employees yesterday. This is linked to Israel in one way or another, even if it was committed under the slogan of settling certain sacred scores having nothing to do with Islam or the factions. It was a matter of trading in holy blood, and in the blood of martyrs. Enough playing with fire for the sake of objectives no longer a secret to anyone. It is a premeditated plan to force all institutions and embassies to leave. The latest element came in the threats to schools and missions to move to East Beirut, and the attempts to isolate the nationalist forces [words indistinct].

Once again, and in less than a month, Israel has added a massacre to its history, which, in its barbarism, surpassed its actions in Al-Zrariyah — the murder of prisoners and civilians, the destruction of cars, the burning of homes, and their demolition over the heads of their inhabitants. Some of these actions were also committed in Jba', and in other villages. Whoever kills a child kills humanity. Therefore, it is quite natural for them to kill reporters. We have all the evidence and proof that the Israeli Army — from a distance of not more than 450 to 500 meters — used a tank fire on reporters at Kafr Milki, while these men were trying to get into their car. No one near them had any weapons; there were only some women and children from the village nearby. Those wounded are now in Sidon's Hammud Hospital, where they can be interviewed.

Despite the fact that this matter neither detracts from nor adds to the crimes Israel is committing every day and every second throughout Lebanon, above all in southern Lebanon, Mr Reagan wouldn't even blame Israel if it committed crimes against every journalist in the world. On the contrary, Shim'on Peres had almost agreed to an investigation when Reagan decided that Israel didn't have the journalists' blood on its hands.

The U.S. Administration has proven once again that there is no difference at all between it and Israel. Arabs everywhere will realize this fact. The day when they realize this is not far off.

At this point, I'd like to make a comparison. Were a U.S. journalist to be kidnapped in Beirut, all hell would break loose. The U.S. Administration would mobilize all its agent and nonagent organs throughout the world... [Birri changes thought] all its agent organs throughout the world to publicize the characteristics of Shi'ite terrorism. This expression was used by its protege, Israel, despite the fact that kidnapping does not mean murder or liquidation. The kidnappers have shown their humanity to these people thus far, while the Lebanese journalists who worked for an American company were killed. Consequently, Israel wasn't even blamed. It's clear that journalists inform the world of the monstrous acts which Israel commits against innocent people with U.S. weapons. This killing was intentional, as Israel kills innocent people each day. It's nothing new.

Meanwhile, large sections of southern villages have been turned into mass graves. At the same time, Israel is tightening its blockade and preventing food and other necessities from reaching the area. Therefore, it is the Lebanese Government's duty to declare that zone a disaster area. We shall do what is necessary to achieve this. This is particularly true now that Israel has publicly declared its intention to turn that area into a desolate place of scorched earth before it establishes its border strip.

[Question indistinct]

[Birri] Before it leaves Lebanon.

While the battle between the resistance forces and Israel continues, the main problem remains the tendency of certain Lebanese to side with Israel. This is what happened in and around Sidon. In an earlier press conference, I warned that the affair in East Beirut was an Israeli one, which would be used to foment disturbances in several parts of Lebanon. The conspiracy in Sidon began on the night of the very day I spoke.

The conspiracy in East Beirut is, above all, a conspiracy against the Christians. This is also the case in the capital of the south [Sidon], in 'Abra, Kafr Falus, and Al-Salihiyah. I thank our Christian brethren in Maghdushah, Tanburit, Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, and Mi'mariyat for taking a nationalist position alongside the Amal Movement. However, this is my final warning to the Lebanese Forces, and to every collaborator with Israel in Sidon, that any replay of what happened before, or any similar incident, will be stamped out by force.

An agreement was reached before the pullout from Sidon. It wasn't between Muslims and Christians; it involved all Lebanese parties and contained a pledge to avoid any massacre or disturbance in this area. Why, then, have these incidents occurred? Why throw out this agreement and displace people by the thousands? Why have women been disgraced and raped? Under Israeli orders and with Israeli coordination, certain people took over a given area, while Israel took care of another region. We waited a while before dealing with this situation, but we can wait no longer.

What is happening is directed at honorable Christians, who realize that Lebanon's true spirit comes from the south.

Birri Affirms Continued Resistance Against Israelis

NC250726 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has emphasized that national resistance fighters will continue their attacks against Israeli forces as long as there is a single Israeli soldier in Lebanon.

In an interview with the BBC, Minister Birri totally rejected the Israeli proposal for establishing a buffer zone after the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. He added that the Amal forces will step up their attacks on the Israelis. He affirmed: Nothing will dissuade the resistance fighters from carrying out their operations, even if the entire world called them terrorists. These men have a right and a duty to defend their homeland against the occupation forces.

Three Amal Officials Break With Movement

NC221831 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The Amal movement presidium held one of its periodic meetings this morning under the chairmanship of Minister Nabih Birri. It is of note that this is the first time that the Amal presidium has convened without the participation of the Amal executive office, headed by Hasan Hashim.

This corroborates information indicating that Hashim has broken away from the movement. Zakariya Hamzah, the official in charge of the movement's military affairs, and 'Aql Hamiyah, the official in charge of the movement's military office in Beirut, have expressed their support for Hashim.

Amal Official Issues Threats Against Israel

NC251027 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 22 Mar 85 p 5

[Excerpts] Shaykh Adib Haydar, member of the Amal movement political bureau, has rejected turning Lebanon into a company under President Amin al-Jumayyil. He pointed out that "if Israel does not leave the south, we will destroy all civilian aircraft which go to Israel, as well as all the companies in the world which cooperate with Israel."

Shaykh Haydar made this announcement yesterday at a ceremony held in Rawdat al-Shahidayn Mosque in Al-Shiyah to eulogize martyr Hasan Surur.

In his address at the ceremony, Shaykh Haydar said: The masks have fallen from the treacherous faces in this country. The vile and vicious Israeli trend, a trend of treason and submisiveness, has emerged, spreading the confrontation throughout Lebanon instead of confining it to the south alone.

Shaykh Haydar then reviewed the objectives of the Israeli invasion, stressing that the guns of the national and Islamic resistance alone have forced the enemy to withdraw. He added: What is now occurring in the south prior to the Israeli withdrawal is similar to what took place in the mountain before Israel withdrew. When Israel found that it had failed to drag the Muslims into sectarian massacres, it activated its agents in Lebanon.

Haydar rejected the idea of turning Lebanon into a big commercial company equally divided between Muslims and Christians, a company where the decisionmaking would be in the hands of the Christians under al-Jumayyil.

Haydar declared: If Israel does not leave the south, we will destroy civilian aircraft flying to Israel. We will also destroy all international companies cooperating with Israel. We are ready to play all our cards for the sake of fighting for freedom. We will not go back on our decision except through martyrdom or victory.

Lebanese Forces, Al-Maradah Exchange Detainees

NC222134 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] An exchange of individuals who were kidnapped took place today between the Phalangists and the Lebanese Forces on the one hand, and the Al-Maradah [former President Franjiyah's militias] on the other. Three of the Al-Maradah brigade and two members of the Lebanese Forces were released in the exchange this evening.

Ja'ja' Hints at Rapprochement

NC230830 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The exchange of kidnapped persons between the Al-Maradah on the one side and the Phalangists and the Lebanese Forces on the other has had positive effects in the circles concerned.

Dr Samir Ja'ja' answered reporters questions on this step. Asked if he considers this as a step toward reconciliation with former President Franjiyah, Ja'ja' answered: This is so. This step is an initiative by itself.

Asked about other possible initiatives, Ja'ja' said: This will depend on the reactions.

Ja'ja' was then asked if there is any communication with Franjiyah. He replied that many intermediaries are constantly in touch with the two parties to draw close the views. Asked about the nature of the reaction to the step taken, he said: It was not negative.

Asked if the return of people from the north to their homes was discussed with Franjiyah, Dr Ja'ja' said: No comment.

He added: I hope all parties concerned will show readiness to make this return possible.

Regarding the Al-Barbara roadblock, Ja'ja' said: I believe the issue has been overtaken by events. The roadblock does not close the road. It is merely a security roadblock. The road is actually cut by Jisr al-Madfun roadblock.

Beirut Cites Christian Opposition to Ja'ja' Uprising

NC230813 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Phalange Party's Political Bureau has warned that the opinions expressed by the so-called uprising constitute a plan for another war, despite their glitter. The party has emphasized its total and categorical rejection of the fait accompli imposed on some eastern areas, on some of the party's centers and institutions, as well as on the Lebanese Forces, their organs, and leaders.

The Phalange Party issued a statement after its meeting yesterday describing recent events as a rude expression of a view on the fate of the nation in general and of the Christian fate in particular. The statement adds that this view has been discussed more than once by the party's institutions and is considered contradictory to the main principles followed by the party.

The statement emphasizes that any political decentralization constitutes a plan for liquidating the Christian presence, or at least for eradicating its political presence and freedom. The statement considers that any security decentralization is also a political decentralization.

The statement says: The fait accompli imposed on the eastern areas does not take into consideration anticipated effects on the fate of the Lebanese in general and the Christians in particular.

It adds: Any independent Christian entity separated from its environment will not last. Any decentralization of the kind referred to will mean sacrificing the Christian presence in various areas in the north, south, Al-Biqa', the mountain, and a large part of Beirut and its suburbs. If all the Christians were to gather in a specific area, this does not mean that their free and dignified presence will be safeguarded.

In conclusion, the party's statement expresses the hope that the crisis will be contained within the narrowest limits so as not to undermine the foundations upon which Lebanon is established.

The Council of the Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon has appealed for eradicating differences and for resorting to reason to save the homeland. It has declared that the only way to achieve salvation is to safeguard and support the legitimate authority.

The National Liberals Party has emphasized its rejection of the proposals raised by the so-called uprising. It said that the party insists on its determination to continue pursuing its known policy, that is, pure Lebanese national unity without which it would be difficult to establish stability and happy coexistence in Lebanon. The party added that the main goal of this policy is to end the state of war in Lebanon and to adopt sound national dialogue.

The group of independent Maronite deputies has called for rallying around the legitimate authority and for discarding sectarian emotionalism, because it contradicts reality and coexistence in Lebanon. The group has stressed that events in Sidon respond to the enemy's wishes, saying that the Army is supposed to assume its tasks and strike the presumptuous and troublemakers with an iron fist.

Response to Statement

NC231335 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] A responsible source in the Executive Committee of the Lebanese Forces has issued a statement in which he answered a statement made by Dr Elie Karamah on 22 March 1985. The source said:

1. The uprising refuses to be called a fait accompli, especially since it is a natural outcome and lively expression of the interests and aspirations of Christians in general and Phalangists in particular. The uprising took place following a stage of fragmentation and the beginning of collapse as a result of the shortsightedness and political plan of the current leaders of the Phalange Party, which has lately monopolized Christian decisionmaking.

2. Dr Elie Karamah has tried to depict us as advocates of partition. This portrayal comes at a time when we have explained our position regarding our adherence to Lebanon's unity on the basis of a formula that safeguards the security and freedom of all Lebanese. Dr Karamah has also tried to imply that we are an extremist force which will lead society to collapse, while in reality, the current policy of the Phalange Party leader has led us to the present dire predicament. For approximately 6 months, this policy has ignored the views and aspirations of the broad base of the Phalange Party, as well as the bases drawn up by Pierre al-Jumayyil over almost 50 years and the objectives for which Bashir al-Jumayyil struggled and died.

3. Dr Karamah wants to make the Christians believe that the uprising came to spoil an imminent solution. He accuses the uprising of seeking decentralization that will be a prelude to partition. He forgets that other forces in the Lebanese arena are practicing security and political decentralization. He also forgets that the Phalange Party and the Lebanese Front submitted a federal plan as a solution for the Lebanese crisis at the Lausanne conference. Has Dr Karamah backed down on this plan?

4. We draw attention and affirm that the uprising is not a foreign movement, but an essential part of the Phalange Party. It took place to confront deviation, compliancy, and arbitrary measures that lead to the fragmentation of the party. We seek a new trend for the party that will respond to the aspirations of the rank and file of the party and society. We want to build the Phalange Party, not for 5 months, but for the coming 50 years.

5. The uprising rejects the attempts to accuse it of preparing for another war, especially as it has explained that it harbors no evil against anyone at home or abroad. It is a movement for democratic change in our society. Only those who can wage war, can make peace.

Three Army Officers Mutiny, Join Ja'ja'

NC231442 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] It was learned today that Lebanese Army Lieutenant Colonel Charles 'Id, Captain Haddad, and Lieutenant Hanna Muzhir mutinied and joined the Ja'ja' militiamen 2 days ago.

We have also learned that Captain Haddad put a pistol to the head of Colonel Hasan Tut, commander of the Army's 12th Brigade when the latter prevented him from using Army vehicles to support the agent's militiamen in the south. The Ja'ja' militiamen also stole 4,500 machinegun rounds from an armored car belonging to the Southern Gendarmerie Company.

According to our reports, the disruption of communications between Beirut and Sidon is due to the fact that the Ja'ja' militiamen cut the telephone lines at Al-Jiyah.

Lebanese Forces Announce New Appointments

NC221802 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] At the end of its meeting today, the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee issued a statement announcing the following appointments:

Head of the General Secretariat
George 'Adwan

Head of the Public Relations Office
Etian Saqr, alias Abu Arz

Head of the Guidance and Information Office
Fawzi Mahfuz, alias Abu Roy

Head of the Foreign Relations Office
Charle Augustine

Head of the Social Affairs and Trade Unions Office
Elie Aswad

Lebanese Front Reportedly Issues 'Statement'

Calls for 'Spiritual Awakening'

NC231655 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] The Lebanese Front has issued a statement on the threats directed at the Lebanese, and on the declarations that the war in Lebanon will continue until the Christians succumb and embrace Islam. The Front would like to state categorically that the Christians in Lebanon, who have faithfully followed their Christianity for approximately 2,000 years, will never embrace any religion but that of Jesus Christ, their savior.

On this basis, the Front expresses its sympathy with every move, regardless of its source, which seeks to realize those principles which the Front emphasizes and insists upon.

Therefore, the Lebanese Front has noted the statements made by the leaders of the uprising, who have described their movement as purely internal, political, nonviolent, and unrelated to the legitimate authorities and the president. The Front has also noted their declarations of continued support for all constitutional institutions and of respect for all laws and regulations. Proceeding from the sincerity and truthfulness of these statements, the Lebanese Front warns all parties that now is the time for a profound spiritual awakening. Thank God, this awakening has begun. Thus, we must nurture it, so it may be completed on its own. This may be done by honoring and defending human rights and basic liberties. It may also be done by consolidating man's faithfulness to his heritage and to world civilization, as the spirit alone gives life.

Sham'un, Karamah Deny Communique

NC231724 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un and Phalange Party leader Dr Elie Karamah have issued a statement denying that the Lebanese Front has released a communique, and disavowing what has been leaked to newspapers on behalf of the Front.

The statement highlighted the amendments made without their knowledge by the Front's secretary general, Deputy Edward Hunayn, and Dr Charles Malik.

Hunayn Seized by Rebels

NC231835 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] According to information received from the east, Ja'ja's militiamen detained Deputy Edward Hunayn, secretary general of the so-called Lebanese Front, today and took him to an undisclosed location. This came after the Front issued a statement contradicting the position held by Ja'ja's group.

Lebanese Phalangists Reject Radio's Seizure

NC231821 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] A reporter from the Phalange Party's Information Council released this statement at noon today:

The Phalange Party has taken a wise position by choosing not to fight our colleagues in the Lebanese Forces. This stand prevented bloodshed and reassured our people. However, the Lebanese Phalangists now find themselves facing an information campaign conducted by the insurgents [words indistinct] on the Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio under the protection of gunmen. They have no right to do so. The statement adds that the Voice of Lebanon is a Phalangist institution that has been seized by gunmen. It is forced to broadcast in a way we believe serves the uprising, which has been withholding Phalangist reports and positions from its listeners.

The statement notes that Lebanon's Phalangists reject this fait accompli, and insist on free democratic dealings and on a calm [word indistinct] dialogue.

After expressing its appreciation of the public and private media — radio, television, and the press — the Phalangist Information Council called on these media to constantly serve the cause of truth and the greater national interest. It also appealed to Islamic leaders, the Christian public, deputies, politicians, intellectuals, men of religion, as well as lay and spiritual leaders, to cooperate in the service of the entire Lebanese nation.

AL-SHARQ Urges Formation of National Salvation Front

NC231259 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] The pro-Syrian Lebanese newspaper *AL-SHARQ* has called for the formation of a national salvation front, to comprise former President Sulayman Franjiyah; national bloc leader Raymond Iddih, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt; Amal movement leader Nabih Birri; 'Asim Qansuh, secretary general of the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon; Dr Elie Karamah, leader of the Lebanese Phalangist Party; 'Isam al-Mahayri, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party; former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss; former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam; Prime Minister Rashid Karami; and Deputy Nazih al-Bizri.

Israeli Pamphlets Seek Christian 'Buffer Zone'

NC221536 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The south today paid its last farewell to the martyrs who fell yesterday during the confrontation with the enemy forces and their agents in villages in the areas of Sidon and Al-Zahrani. The village of Humin al-Tahta alone said farewell to 21 martyred inhabitants. Delegations from other areas flocked to the town to take part in the funeral and to pledge continued resistance, despite the sacrifices, until liberation is achieved.

Today, the Zionist enemy revealed the reasons for yesterday's raids on nine southern villages, conducted within its conspiracy against Lebanon, which it is seeking to implement with the use of mercenary Lebanese tools. Inhabitants of Sidon woke this morning to find leaflets being dropped by enemy helicopters. The leaflets, written in Arabic, call on Christians to leave for the border strip, alleging that the occupation forces are determined to protect their friends in the area.

The leaflets also encourage the establishment of a sectarian canton for Christians on Israel's northern border, in an attempt to create a buffer zone that would protect its settlements from attacks by the resistance which would instead fall upon the inhabitants of this canton, until the time is right for the Zionist occupation of this border strip to be executed.

Lebanese President al-Jumayyil Visits Damascus

Meets With Al-Asad

JN231840 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Damascus at 1245 today on a visit to Syria. At the head of those who received him at Damascus International Airport was President Hafiz al-Asad. The guest president then shook hands with the senior officials who received him. Included in those receiving President al-Jumayyil were Deputy Prime Ministers General Mustafa Talas, Walid Hamdun, and 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah; Interior Minister Nasir al-Din Nasir; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; and Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh. The two presidents then traveled in an official motoracade to the Presidential Palace in Al-Muhajirin.

President Hafiz al-Asad held a closed meeting with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil at the Presidetial Palace in Al-Muhajirin at 1315 today. Later, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' joined the meeting.

During the meeting, the talks revolved around the current situation in the Lebanese arena, the developments in Lebanon in light of the overall situation in the region, and the fratrnal Lebanese people's duties, especially the liberation of Lebanese territories from the Israeli occupiers and the continuation of the march of national accord. They also discussed the phenomena of rebellion in some Lebanese areas aimed at dealing a blow to the national accord. President al-Jumayyil presented a review of the situation in the Lebanese arena and the efforts to overcome them as well as the difficulties and obstacles that are hampering the achievement of national accord. He also explained the need to focus efforts to liberate the Lebanese land from the Israeli occupiers, affirming the Lebanese Government's adherence to its option that is based on the Lausanne, Damascus, and Beirut agreements; he also affirmed its determination to continue its line, to work for the sake of national accord, implement all the steps that have been agreed upon and the contents of the government policy statement, and to resist the rebellion in some Lebanese territories. The Lebanese president also said that the Lebanese Government will abide by the option it had adopted and the policy of national accord as well as the agreements that have been reached.

President al-Asad reaffirmed to President al-Jumayyil Syria's staunch support for the fraternal Lebanese people and the legitimate Lebanese authorities in order to liberate Lebanon from the Israeli invaders and to safeguard the unity of land and people; this is by confronting the plans that are hostile to Lebanon's national interests and aimed at distracting attention from the Israeli enemy and hampering the achievement of national accord. The president also said that Syria's decision to support fraternal Lebanon is principled, firm, and continuous and responds to the interest of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab national trend. President al-Asad said that Syria will not ignore any move that serves the interests of Israel and the enemies of Syria and Lebanon or threatens the unity of Lebanon's people and land.

President al-Asad hosted a luncheon today in honor of President Amin al-Jumayyil. It was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, and Faruq al-Shar'. President al-Jumayyil left Damascus at 1800 today. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by President Hafiz al-Asad, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the deputy prime ministers, and the interior, foreign, and information ministers.

Departs Damascus

NC231857 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The second round of Lebanese-Syrian talks between Presidents Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad were held at the Presidential Palace in Hayy al-Muhajirin in Damascus. They ended at 1700 Beirut time, 1800 Damascus time, today.

President al-Jumayyil was seen off from the Syrian capital by President Hafiz al-Asad; Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm; General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and minister of defense; and a number of other senior Syrian officials.

According to informed sources, the Lebanese-Syrian talks took place in a positive atmosphere, were completely frank, and treated all issues in an in-depth and detailed way.

The sources emphasized Damascus' determination to continue its support for the Lebanese reconciliation process. This will allow the desired objectives to be reached and Lebanon to be saved.

Al-Kasm Addresses Public Rally in Al-Hasakah

JN230831 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 23 Mar (SANA) — Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm has affirmed that the enemy coveting Arab territory has agents in more than one Arab capital and that it is plotting against Syria because it opposes all capitulation plans. He said that Syria, which stands as the only impregnable fortress defending all the Arabs, will destroy any new hostile plan or alliance.

Addressing a public rally in the town in Al-Hasakah in northeastern Syria yesterday on the occasion of laying the cornerstone for Al-Hasakah Dam, the prime minister said the Iraqi people have nothing to do with the current dirty war with Iran. He affirmed that the Iraqi soldier's place must be alongside the Syrian Arab soldier against the Zionist enemy.

After affirming the inevitability of the Arab nation's victory over all conspirators, Dr al-Kasm said: We will continue our struggle. We will not kneel as others have done. We will strike at every attempt to mutilate Lebanon. The slogan of the one independent Arab Lebanon will remain the slogan of victory over conspiracies. We have pledged to liberate the usurped territories. What has been taken by force can be retrieved only by force.

The prime minister laid the cornerstone for the Al-Khabur River irrigation project, which is considered one of the biggest agricultural economic projects in Syria after the Euphrates project.

Talas Receives GDR Youth Delegation 23 Mar

JN232013 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] This evening General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received in his office Hans Sattler, GDR director of the Office for Youth Affairs at the GDR Council of Ministers, and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Major General 'Awwad Bagh, deputy defense minister; Major General Muhammad Milhim, director general of the Department of Schools for Martyrs' Sons; and the GDR ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, talks revolved around the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries and issues of joint interest.

The guest youth delegation comprises Norbert Stoschus, deputy director of the Office for Youth Affairs, and Dr Knolle, director of foreign relations at the GDR youth department [name and title as heard].

Foreign Minister Meets With Former U.S. Official

JN231442 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the former U.S. under secretary of state, George Ball, at 1000 today. During the meeting, the talks revolved around the current situation in the Middle East.

The foreign minister explained the country's principled and firm stand toward a just peace in the region. He praised George Ball's objective and daring stands toward the Arab-Israeli conflict — particularly his valuable analysis in his latest book, *Error and Betrayal in Lebanon* — and his stand on U.S.-Israeli collusion during the invasion of Lebanon which resulted in the grave failure of its perpetrators and brought further destruction and agony to the Lebanese people. George Ball expressed his deep understanding of the Syrian stance, and affirmed that he will continue writing to enlighten and alert U.S. public opinion against the risks the strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance poses to the issue of a just and lasting peace in the region and the world.

Al-Shar' Leaves for Arab League Meetings

JN250958 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Damascus for Tunis early this morning to head the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the Arab League Council in its first ordinary session.

Husayn Reportedly To Meet Israeli Officials

JN250629 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Reports from the Spanish capital say that King Husayn will meet with Zionist Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the Spanish Canary Islands during the king's visit which will begin today. Other sources expect Husayn to meet with three Israeli officials — Yitzhaq Shamir, Abba Eban, and 'Ezer Weizman. The sources added that a representative of Moroccan King Hassan II will take part in this secret meeting.

AL-THAWRAH Condemns Israeli Forces in Lebanon

JN230935 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0738 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 23 Mar (SANA) — *AL-THAWRAH* says: The war of annihilation waged by Israeli occupation forces against the sons of southern Lebanon discloses the extent of the rancor that obsesses the leaders of the Zionist military establishment as a result of the political and military defeat of Israel and its plans in Lebanon. It also confirms that by resorting to agent reserves represented by the mutineers from the militias of Ja'ja' Israel is recklessly attempting to save whatever possible of its collapsing plan thanks to the Lebanese people's maturity and heroic national resistance.

In its editorial today, *AL-THAWRAH* adds: It is no coincidence that the agent mutineer movement is taking place simulatenously with the beginning of Israel's coercive campaign against the sons of the south. The timing and aims are Israeli, those who carry them out are Zionists and agents of Zionism, and the target is Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH explains: Israel's agents did not benefit from the lessons and results that emerged in the Lebanese arena. The foremost of these is that Israel is the main enemy of Lebanon and its people, that betting on the Israeli role is like building castles in the air, and that seeking Israeli support against Lebanon is an erroneous and short-sighted policy.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by calling for action to check the agents. It stresses that Israel's coercive campaign and its agents' plotting cannot change the trend of the Lebanese people, who know the path toward salvation and have started on this path with firm and confident steps. The paper warns that Israel's agents will realize the magnitude of the crime they are committing against themselves and against Lebanon and its people.

TISHRIN Analyzes Al-Asad, Al-Jumayyil Summit

JN250856 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 25 Mar (SANA) — *TISHRIN* asserts that the results of the recent Damascus summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Amin al-Jumayyil have proven Syria's honest stand toward fraternal Lebanon. These results have also proven that Syria cannot disregard any move that serves the interests of

Israel and the enemies of Lebanon and Syria or threatens the Lebanese people's unity and territorial integrity.

In today's editorial under the headline "Following the Damascus Summit," *TISHRIN* says: The Damascus summit was important and fruitful. Matters were discussed frankly and plans were laid down that will stop the deterioration Israel is trying to spread in the entire Lebanese arena, give the accord momentum, and mobilize all resources to implement the resolutions adopted in Geneva, Lausanne, and Bikfayya; this is in order to achieve Lebanese national unity and to melt all Lebanese in the crucible of the only free, sovereign, and independent Lebanon. *TISHRIN* adds: The coming days will witness a practical translation of the decisions adopted by the Damascus summit for the benefit of all Lebanese; this is proceeding from Syria's concern about Lebanon and its national interests and from the Lebanese authority's assertion that it will continue its course which began with Lausanne and the formation of the national unity government and ended with the Bikfayya meeting.

Concluding, *TISHRIN* asserts that the coming days are important and decisive to all Lebanon.

Peres Objects to U.S.-Jordan-Palestinian Talks

TA241415 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The prime minister explained at today's Cabinet session that Israel is prepared to conduct direct negotiations anywhere and anytime with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that has no PLO members on it. He said that Israel totally objects to such negotiations beginning with the invitation of such a delegation to the United States, an idea to which the United States alsoobjects, because such a proposal is aimed at working out a common position that will later be forced upon Israel.

Regarding the regulation of ties with Egypt, Shim'on Peres said that Israel is ready to discuss all the disputed issues and prefers this method to a discussion of only one disputed issue divorced from the entire fabric of relations.

Shamir Reacts to Reagan's Remarks on Negotiations

TA221403 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Interview with Yitzhaq Shamir, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Shalom Oren and anchorman Tzvi Lidar at Shamir's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Excerpt][Lidar] First, let us discuss the remarks made last night by U.S. President Ronald Reagan that the United States may not object to meeting a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that does not include PLO members. What is your opinion on this?

[Shamir] The Foreign Ministry is now clarifying the meaning and implications of these remarks, and seeing whether they will have practical results and if so, what kind. In any event, we do not believe that such meetings and talks can advance the peace issue in our region.

[Lidar] Why?

[Shamir] Because peace talks must be held with Israel, and not between the Arabs and the United States.

[Lidar] Nevertheless, Mr Foreign Minister, do you not see this U.S. position as gravitating somewhat toward the Arab countries?

[Shamir] I do not think so. I think that the United States understands Israel's position. I do not believe the United States would confront us with faits accomplis contrary to our outlook. In any event, we will know more details in the near future. The President's envoy will be visiting Israel soon, and the U.S. secretary of state is expected to visit in May. Continual contacts are being held in Washington between our embassy and the U.S. Administration. We are involved in all issues concerning the Middle East.

[Oren] Mr Shamir, up until now have we been coordinating these issues with the United States?

[Shamir] We are in continuous contact. Up until now, I have not seen any tactical differences of opinion between us and the U.S. Government. However, we must take into account that in the future there might be differences of opinion between the two sides. In general, differences are natural, even between the closest of friends and between countries engaged in intensive mutual cooperation, such as Israel and the United States.

[Oren] Do all ministers in the government agree on the subject of direct negotiations or negotiations through U.S. mediation?

[Shamir] So far, the government has not been confronted with any political problem on this issue which called for a decision and caused dissension.

No Objections to U.S. Envoy Meeting Palestinians

TA240837 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
24 Mar 85 pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Tzvi Bar'el]

[Excerpt] Israel will not object to a meeting between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and various Palestinians during his visit to Jordan next week. At the same time, the U.S. State Department spokesman has announced that the United States has received "mixed signals" from Israel regarding the possibility that the United States would meet separately with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The Jordanian foreign minister told a group of Jews in Washington that each Palestinian chosen to participate in the joint delegation would have to receive the PLO's approval.

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz reached an agreement in principle through Ambassador Samuel Lewis, that the meetings between Murphy and various Palestinians in Jordan would be characterized as contacts instead of "negotiations." The main aim of these contacts will be to select Palestinians acceptable to all sides who would participate in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and to maintain the "momentum" of President Mubarak's initiative. This formula was first raised during the talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Washington and was later consolidated in a series of meetings between Peres and Lewis. It was also decided that a thorough check would be made before the meeting to preclude PLO members from participating in the contacts with the United States.

Circles in Jerusalem believe that King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat will not succeed in forming a joint delegation that would also be acceptable to Israel and the United States before Murphy arrives in Amman. The names that have been mentioned so far as being acceptable to Israel (mainly pro-Jordanian mayors and leaders from the territories) are unacceptable to the PLO. It has been learned that the agreement in principle regarding this formula was brought to the attention of David Kimche, the Foreign Ministry director general, last week. Kimche in turn reported it to Moshe Arens who at the time was filling in for Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir while the latter was out of the country. Arens did not express opposition to the formula. Two days ago, Peres brought Shamir up to date on the subject, and after making it clear that Washington had promised not to hold contacts with PLO members and not to hold negotiations without Israel, Shamir had no reservations.

Over the weekend, the Prime Minister's Office and the Israeli Embassy in Washington, during a meeting between Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne and Murphy, looked into U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' remarks. It became apparent that the United States would definitely not hold contacts with the PLO and would reject negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in Washington without Israel's participation.

Shamir Agrees to Complete Withdrawal by May

TA241400 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
24 Mar 85 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reached an agreement on accelerating the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon to the international line. Shamir told Peres he supported a withdrawal according to the defense establishment's timetable.

Shamir retracted his opposition to a withdrawal to the international line and shortening the withdrawal stages. Speaking in closed Likud forums, Shamir said: "A month or two will not make much difference, so the government's decision to withdraw to the international line should be supported."

Government sources believe that Shamir's decision has broken through the Likud ministers' opposition to a withdrawal to the international border. As recalled, most Likud ministers, headed by Shamir and Arens, opposed an IDF withdrawal to this line during the 14 January Cabinet session. In the Cabinet session on 3 March, when the implementation of the second stage of the withdrawal was decided, Shamir and the Likud ministers supported the withdrawal, with the exception of Minister Arens who abstained. During internal discussions prior to the Shamir-Peres meeting, the Likud ministers decided to oppose the completion of the withdrawal to the international line at the end of the second stage.

The situation within the Likud changed following the Shamir-Peres meeting. While in the past only Ministers David Levi and Gid'on Pat decided to comply with the government's decision to withdraw to the international border, now Ministers Ari'el Sharon and Moshe Arens are the only Likud ministers who oppose an accelerated withdrawal. Minister Sharon did not participate in the Cabinet session of 14 January, and so far has not expressed his support for a withdrawal to the international line. His associates, however, claim that he does not oppose completion of the withdrawal on condition that a [words missing deleted by censor] security strip be set up with a strong presence of the army of southern Lebanon.

Minister Moshe Arens' position is the most radical in that he opposes an IDF withdrawal to the international border. Arens believes that Israel should deploy within Lebanese territory and strongly deter Shi'ite and Palestinian terrorism from becoming a threat to the Galilee settlements. The government has yet to debate Sharon's plan to establish a [words missing deleted by censor] security strip. It is estimated that most government ministers, even the Likud ministers, will reject Sharon's plan. Most of the ministers are afraid that Sharon's plan will lead to a continuation of the IDF's presence in Lebanon, in contradiction to the government's original plan. Government sources estimate that with Vice Prime Minister Shamir's and most of the Likud ministers' support for the withdrawal plan, the IDF soldiers will return home by mid-May.

Defense Sources Question Mid-May Withdrawal Date

TA241003 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
24 Mar 85 p 3

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] Senior sources in the Defense Ministry have said that a date has not yet been determined for the completion of the third stage of the withdrawal plan. The inner Cabinet debated the issue of an accelerated withdrawal, but nothing was concluded. The sources were reacting to a report published in *HA'ARETZ* on Friday.

The same sources said it was doubtful that preparations in the security strip and reinforcement of the international border could be completed within the 8 weeks left until the middle of May. At the same time, they noted that no political obstacle would block the withdrawal's progress. If the IDF presents a plan to complete the withdrawal earlier than originally planned, the defense establishment would presumably support it. This week senior military sources said that the second stage of the withdrawal would be concluded. Referring to the implementation of the third stage, the senior sources assessed that it could be concluded within a matter of days. In the meantime, the eastern and western sectors are being evacuated simultaneously as part of the implementation of the third stage, and it appears that the IDF plans to remove as much equipment as possible from the western sector.

There also appear to be differences of opinion among political circles regarding the security strip. Some are in favor of a total withdrawal from Lebanon, while others want a relatively large IDF force to ramain in the security belt. According to the latter, only a reinforced IDF presence in the field would allow the army of southern Lebanon to continue to exist and function. At the same time, it seems as though the planned security strip will be wider than "Haddad's strip" was before 1982. One of the problems that may arise once the security zone has been established is the ethnic variety within the strip. Druze will inhabit the eastern part, Christians and Shi'ites will make up the central area, and mainly Shi'ites will populate the western part of the strip.

Ministers Present No Opposition to Defense Budget Cuts

TA241350 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1335 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] The Cabinet today heard a briefing by the heads of the defense establishment that lasted more than 5 hours on the implication of the defense budget cuts. The report was given to the Cabinet in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav points out that none of the ministers wanted the decision on slashing $400 million from the defense budget altered, and everyone was happy just to hear the report.

At the end of the Cabinet session, Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said that even with the cuts in the defense budget, the IDF will continue to be a strong and effective army, maintaining its military prowess. Ministers Bar-Lev and Shahal told reporters at the conclusion of the session that they would prefer to see a different order of priorities than the scale presented; Minister Bar-Lev said there was no dispute in the Cabinet over who is supposed to shoulder the financing of the withdrawal from Lebanon and the security arrangements upon the redeployment along the international border. However, he claimed, right now there is no telling what the bottom line of the expenses is.

Further on Killing of TV Crewmen in S. Lebanon

Peres Sends Letter to CBS

TA221621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister says that the two CBS crewmen who were killed yesterday in Lebanon were among armed men who operated against the IDF. Peres says this in a letter to the president of CBS, who claimed that the shooting at the television crew was intentional, and demanded that the affair be investigated. The prime minister emphasized that the crew members were killed during an attempt made by the IDF soldiers to protect themselves from armed men. He also said that the members of the tank crew that fired the shell killing the CBS crew did not deviate from the strict orders regarding the protection of innocent civilians. Peres expressed deep sorrow over the incident, and sent his condolences to the families of the dead, and to CBS. He reiterated Israel's commitment to the freedom of the press, and noted that the incident was the outcome of the tragic situation in Lebanon, and of the need to protect the life of the IDF soldiers.

IDF Not To Investigate

TA221121 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] An initial probe of the incident in which two members of a CBS television crew were killed shows that there was no deviation from standing procedures. Consequently, the IDF will not launch an investigation.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that senior military sources thus denied that the IDF would launch an investigation. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres received a letter from CBS management on this issue. In his reply, Peres will confirm the IDF's announcement that the members of the CBS television crew were interspersed among the terrorists who were fired upon.

IDF Holding 'Large-Scale Maneuvers' in North

TA241256 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1247 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] The IDF is holding large-scale maneuvers within the Northern Command's jurisdiction. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that regular and reserves divisions, aided by Air Force and Navy forces, are taking part in the maneuvers that began today. The maneuvers will end by the end of the week. The commander of the Northern Command, Major General Ori Or, pointed out that despite the intensive activities regarding the withdrawal from Lebanon and other daily security problems, the Northern Command vigorously continues to discharge its main duty, namely, training and preparations for the eventuality of war.

Security Forces Fire on Demonstrators, Wound One

TA240859 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0842 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] This morning a young boy was wounded by shots fired by security forces in the Qalandiyah refugee camp north of Jerusalem. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this occurred after a bus passing the camp was stoned. The security forces were called to the scene, and they too were stoned. They fired at the demonstrators, and wounded the boy in the leg. He was taken to the hospital.

Arabs Protest Galilee Land Expropriation

TA231514 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] In the village of Majd al-Kurum on the 'Akko-Zefat road there was a mass rally today to protest the fact that 60 residents were required to vacate cultivated land within 2 weeks. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the orders sent by the Israel Land Administration refer to 1,700 dunam, which according to the village's representatives were expropriated 9 years ago, but have so far not been used for public purposes. The residents of the village say that now they have the right of possession to this land.

Local Arab Collaboration With Terrorists Growing

TA241102 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Yosef Walter]

[Text] A disturbing increase was registered last year in the number of Israeli Arabs who collaborated with terrorist organizations by supplying them with weapons and in carrying out attacks.

A senior military source told *MA'ARIV* that since the beginning of 1984 security forces have detained approximately 100 Israeli Arabs, most of them from villages in the triangle (compared to 62 in 1983). The detainees were charged with illegal possession of arms for hostile purposes.

Security sources see this trend as an increasing radicalism among the Arab population.

Former Gaza Mayor Calls for PLO To Recognize Israel

TA250554 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Mar 85 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Richardson]

[Text] Gaza — The deposed former mayor of this seaside city, Rashad al-Shawwa, yesterday called on the Palestine Liberation Organization to "conditionally recognize" Israel.

Asked by a visiting delegation of the Citizen Rights Movement if Jordan and the PLO could go any further to advance the peace process, al-Shawwa said that " 'Arafat can make a conditional acceptance of Israel, conditional on Israel recognizing the Palestinians' right to exist. I would urge this."

Al-Shawwa told Knesset Members [MK's] Shulamit Aloni and Mordekhay Bar-On that he would be willing to participate in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate with Israel, but he was sceptical whether, in fact, Israel would allow him to.

He told the MK's that before his recent trip to Europe, the military authorities had forbidden him to visit Jordan or Egypt. "And now you have peace with Egypt," he said.

The same ban applied to members of his family, and his local political associates, he said.

Al-Shawwa repeated that even if he was part of a general delegation, he was sure it could not go against the dictates of the PLO.

"There are two basic points you must remember," he said. "First, we have recognized the PLO as our legitimate representatives. All of us have. It is not that all of the PLO are wonderful people — many are not and they would have to go, but they are our representatives in principle.

"Second, I, or anyone else living under occupation, cannot really face up to Israel on our own simply because the minute Israel wanted to, they could remove us," he said.

Nonetheless, the former mayor, who is the acknowledged leader of the largest single concentration of Palestinians in the world, urged that Israel allow greater communication with the Palestinian leadership in the Arab countries because "that might help moderate their positions." Asked if autonomy might offer an interim solution, al-Shawwa said that if what was being offered was the Likud's restricted interpretation of what was agreed at Camp David, it was still unacceptable.

But he recalled that the late Moshe Dayan had talked of unilateral autonomy. "If they want to encourage us, they can improve conditions tremendously and expand a mayor's authority. At the moment a mayor cannot even build a classroom without the permission of the military authorities," he said.

Public Workers To Get Cost of Living Increment

TA250556 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by the economic correspondent]

[Text] Public sector employees will receive a 13.2 per cent Cost-of-Living [COL] increment in their March salaries, the Treasury announced yesterday.

The ministry said it would wait no longer for the Histadrut and private employers to reach a decision on the COL allowance to be paid to workers.

It added that the increment will be paid as an advance on account of the compensation rate which the employers and the labour federation will eventually agree on.

If the COL payment is smaller than 13.2 per cent, the difference will be deducted from April's wages, the Treasury added.

French National Assembly President Visits

TA242017 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1950 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 24 Mar (ITIM) — The president of the French National Assembly, Louis Mermaz, arrived this evening on board an Air France aircraft for a weeklong visit to Israel as the guest of the Knesset.

Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel, who welcomed him at Ben-Gurion Airport, noted in his welcome speech that this is the first time the president of the National Assembly has visited Israel. He then expressed his confidence that the visit would contribute to further tightening Israeli-French relations.

Deputy Knesset Speaker Aharon Nahmias, who heads the association of the friends of France in the Knesset, was also at the airport to greet the visitor, and he will escort him during his tours.

Mr Mermaz will be received by President Hayim Herzog, will meet with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, and Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and will confer with representatives of various Knesset factions.

Transport Minister Talks With Canadian Counterpart

TA221030 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1020 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The EL AL airline will soon be able to increase the number of its flights to the United States via Canada. Talks on aviation affairs were held in Jerusalem this morning between Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu and Canadian Minister of State for Transport Benoit Bouchard. The talks centered on the landing rights EL AL wants to receive in Toronto, in addition to those it already enjoys in Montreal. The transportation minister told our correspondent Yosi Qoren that if the negotiations are concluded, it will be possible to greatly increase the number of direct flights to the United States via Canada instead of via

Europe. The Canadian minister of state for transport told our correspondent that the chances of reaching an agreement are good, but it seems that the talks will be finalized only at the end of April in Canada.

Cooperation Expected on Content of VOA Broadcasts

TA220800 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Next week, the joint Israeli-U.S. committee talks on the issue of the VOA broadcasts are to begin in Jerusalem. This will be the first meeting of the committee, which was established in response to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's appeal to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Both delegations will contain senior representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Communications.

During the talks, Israel will demand that the VOA broadcasts show a more objective attitude toward the Middle East dispute, and will claim that it is inconceivable to assist in the transmission of broadcasts damaging to the country's image. Recently, several reports have been collected that indicate such a trend.

In principle it has been agreed that Israel will be a partner to decisions concerning the type of broadcasts made from the transmitters that are to be established in Israel for the U.S. station aimed at the Eastern bloc. The Americans have promised there will be no question of propaganda broadcasts likely to have a negative effect on the Soviet authorities' attitude toward Jews.

It has already been agreed in principle that the transmitters will be set up in the Zefat area, but it has been learned that initial examinations have uncovered several technical problems connected with the density of broadcasting channels in the area.

Squash Club Accepts Egyptian Invitation

TA220740 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Mar 85 p 2

[Report by Jack Leon]

[Text] The Israel Squash Rackets Association (ISRA) has accepted the invitation received this week from its Egyptian counterpart to send a team to the 10th annual World Squash Championships, in Cairo in November.

ISRA chairman Avraham Albo said yesterday that the official invitation from Cairo marked the Egyptian Squash Rackets Association's first contact with Israel. The weeklong championships comprise team and individual events for up to four men and four women players.

British-domiciled former Egyptian squash champion Musyah Halal won the man's title at last month's third annual Open Squash Championships in Herzliyya, having been runner-up at the Inaugural Open here in 1983. Halal is the second Egyptian sportsman to have competed in Israel following tennis player Ali Eldawoodi in 1981. Sports contacts between Israel and Egypt have so far developed at a snail's pace in both directions. Not until last year, did an Israeli athlete compete in Egypt at an official level, when Gil Yedidya took part in the World Junior Weightlifting Championship.

A month ago, Shay Puni played in a private capacity in Cairo's annual Grand Prix tennis tournament, having first appeared there four years ago along with two other Israeli participants.

Polls Taken on Mubarak Initiative, Domestic Issues

Mubarak Plan 'Not Serious'

TA220839 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] The majority of the public (59 percent) thinks Egyptian President Mubarak's initiative is not serious and is aimed at public relations objectives. However, a similar majority (55 percent) is satisfied with the positive reactions by the Israeli Government to the Egyptian president's initiative.

These findings emerge from a public opinion poll conducted between 10 and 14 March by the Dahaf Institute for the *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* editorial board. The poll covered 1,172 interviewees, based on a representative sample of the adult Jewish population.

Question: In your opinion, is the "Mubarak initiative" for a continuation of the peace process a serious move, or a frivolous exercise aimed at Egyptian public relations? (Answers in percentages):

Serious: 37; An exercise: 59; Did not answer: 4.

Question: What, in your opinion, are the chances that the Mubarak initiative will further the peace process?

A very good chance: 4; Moderate: 43; Poor: 31; Zero: 19; No answer: 3.

Question: Are you satisfied with the government's reaction?

Satisfied: 55; Dissatisfied: 39; No Answer: 6.

Senior Ministers Less Popular

TA250831 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Mar 85 p 3

[PORI poll]

[Text] A drop was registered this month in the popularity of all the senior government ministers, both from the Alignment and the Likud. This emerges from a nationwide public opinion poll conducted by the PORI Institute and commissioned by *HA'ARETZ*.

Shim'on Peres' popularity as prime minister dropped 14 percent, from 66.4 percent in January to 52.4 percent; Yitzhaq Rabin's as defense minister dropped by 12.7 percent, from 71.6 percent to 59.2 percent; Yitzhaq Shamir's popularity as foreign minister dropped by 8.5 percent, from 44 percent in January to a current 35.5 percent; Yitzhaq Moda'i's as finance minister dropped by 13.2 percent, from 29.8 percent to 16.6 percent — this is the lowest popularity rate among all senior government ministers; David Levi's popularity as construction and housing minister and deputy prime minister dropped by 6.6 percent, from 45.9 percent in January to 39.3 percent; Yitzhaq Navon's as education minister dropped by 6.7 percent, from 74.5 percent to 67.8 percent, although he still holds the highest popularity rating among all the ministers; Hayim Bar-Lev's popularity as police minister dropped by 10.6 percent, from 49.2 percent to 38.6 percent; Ari'el Sharon's as industry and trade minister dropped by 3.2 percent, from 27.5 percent in January to 24.3 percent; only 'Ezer Weizman's popularity rose slightly from 31 percent to 32.6 percent. Public opinion regarding Interior Minister Yitzhaq Peretz has not yet been formulated. Some 47.7 percent of those polled had no opinion at all of the interior minister.

The poll was conducted on a representative sample of 1,200 men and women who were interviewed individually throughout the country.

National Unity Policies

TA220744 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
22 Mar 85 p 3

[Text] The overall credibility of the national unity government after six months in power is only slightly higher than that of the outgoing Likud government on the eve of the July 1984 elections. This is one of the findings of the Smith Research Centre poll conducted at the end of February, the basic results of which were reported in *THE JERUSALEM POST* last Friday.

That poll showed small gains (3 per cent) for the Labour bloc, and a substantial loss of popular support for the Likud (10 per cent). Much of the shift away from the Likud went to Tehiya, KAKH and voters who said they now were undecided.

At the same time, it was reported that the leading Labour ministers — Peres, Rabin, and Navon — are regarded far higher in their jobs than the top Likud ministers — Shamir, Levi, and Sharon. These differences were only mildly reflected in changes in voter party preference. Much of the explanation lies in the publics' reactions to issues. To the question: "Is the government succeeding or not succeeding in its operation in the following areas?" the distribution of those answering "succeeding" or "mainly succeeding" was as follows:

Activity / Feb 85 Poll (National Unity) / Jul 84 Poll (Likud)

Economic Area / 28% / 18%
Social Area / 32% / 46%
Defence Area / 46% / 47%
Foreign Affairs / 56% / 45%
General Opinion of Government's Success / 41% / 43%

Compared to the situation on the eve of the 1984 elections, the government at the end of February was more credible on the economic front than its predecessor. But 28 per cent is not a particularly high figure. In the social area, the figure was much lower than in July 1984. The explanation is that on the eve of the last elections, Likud supporters, aware of the economic performance of the Likud, sought to express their identification with the government by praising it in the social area. In the coalition government they feel no such urge. In the defence area, there is no significant change. It should be remembered that before the Lebanese war, all governments received well over 60 per cent approval in the defence area. Thus, the Lebanese war continues to weigh on the public.

In foreign affairs, 56 per cent saw the government as mainly successful, probably reflecting good relations with the U.S. Overall, the general opinion of the Jewish public showed 41 per cent considering it "mainly successful" to 34 per cent for the previous Likud government at the end of its term. This difference is hard to interpret, since the comparison is between a national unity cabinet with a huge majority and a very narrow coalition majority. The uneasiness of the public is reflected both on the Lebanese and economic front. To the question: "Are you, in general, satisfied or dissatisfied with how the government is handling the Lebanese situation?" 58 per cent reported they were "not satisfied" and 4 per cent were "undecided." More than specific criticism, these results reflect unhappiness in the public over the situation.

On the economic side, the public seems less concerned with the present ills than with future uncertainties. Examples of these concerns can be seen in the following data taken from the survey. Only 20 per cent believed that the Second Package deal would solve most of Israel's economic problems, 55 per cent expected high inflation to return in the near future, 71 per cent that there would be increased unemployment in the near future, 77 per cent that there would be much suffering before the government would overcome Israel's economic difficulties. Only 21 per cent, however, believed the government has a clear economic policy and 31 per cent felt that the government was on the right road to recovery.

All these feelings weigh heavily on the public and shed some light on the apparent paradox of popular Labour leaders bringing little change to voting patterns.

Commentary Views Peres' Ideas on Palestinian Autonomy

TA221215 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
22 Mar 85 p 15

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Peres Is Bidding on Autonomy"]

[Excerpts] The practical solution that could presently yield a settlement between Israel and Jordan, one that would also find a solution to the Palestinian problem, is the **idea of autonomy**. As for territorial compromise, both the "classical" compromise, and the one that would have left Israel with approximately 30 percent of Judaea and Samaria (also known as the Allon plan), it is not feasible at the moment.

First of all, the settlements established in the area over the past few years have blocked, if not altogether eliminated, this option. Second, it does not look as if Jordan will accept a compromise which implies that it is openly giving up its sovereignty over more or less one-third of the West Bank.

These well-established assumptions are no novelty, of course, but still they constitute the greatest brainstorm that is slowly gaining weight behind the scenes these days. That is because the one who currently maintains this view — namely, that autonomy is the "most realistic" idea that can be negotiated with Jordan, and that territorial compromise is not practical right now — is none other than Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

People who move in Peres' circles are aware of the consolidation of his political view, but Peres did not hide it from his colleague, Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, either. As far back as a few weeks ago, during a meeting, Peres revealed what is in his heart and said that he prefers "to bid on the autonomy idea."

It is not absolutely clear whether Peres intends to propose this idea to Husayn based on the Camp David accords, as Shamir and the Likud are demanding, or as a "separate" idea, in view of Husayn's reservations about the Camp David agreements. It is also not clear whether, when "autonomy" is mentioned, Peres and Shamir see eye to eye; probably not. Peres is probably trying to obtain Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation, through "autonomy," and will be prepared to demonstrate greater flexibility than Shamir regarding the nature of autonomy. However, in terms of the principle, this development seems to involve a dramatic 2-pronged turning point, both domestic and foreign.

At home, this terminates the endless and futile argument over the "territorial compromise," or concessions in Judaea and Samaria. Furthermore, it removes the main factor that could, at least theoretically, bring about the dissolution of the unity government.

Ostensibly, the United States is openly committed to the Camp David accords. The autonomy idea, seen as merely **an interim settlement**, does not compel Jordan to relinquish sovereignty. This idea is, in principle, acceptable to Egypt as well, and could conceivably make things easier for both Jordan and Egypt in the search for initiatives to resume the peace process.

Since Peres and Shamir, more than anyone else, were aware of this trend which, in a nutshell, claims that the area of cooperation between the two large parties could also include the **political** sphere, they both evinced the same attitude to the reports that the unity government was on the brink of collapse. Peres talked about irresponsibility and mentioned the absence of any firm ground for talking about dissolving the government, given the serious duties it must still fulfill. Besides, as he emphasized, no one party can alone establish a viable government, at the present moment.

Peres needs peace and quiet at home. The impression lately has sometimes been that he has begun to show excessive confidence in his power and the flattering image he enjoys among the public. That may be the reason why he has allowed himself to take firmer stands, whereas he had previously shown a tendency toward conciliation. His partners-enemies felt hurt, and wasted no time in reacting. In a meeting of Likud leaders, they asked themselves angrily: So where, in the final analysis, are the great successes Peres has claimed? After he visited France, that country's delegate to the UN Security Council voted against Israel. In the economic sphere, the Likud leaders said, the Alignment members are quietly saying that Peres is in fact the finance minister. So, has he actually succeeded? The Mubarak initiative — what has come out of that? Has Egypt changed its position on Tabah?

This "war" was expressed in no-confidence in the prime minister. A top Likud figure was convinced, based on what he had heard from a non-Israeli source, that Peres had "led the Americans to understand" that he has no objection to the United States holding preliminary talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, as suggested by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The fact that Washington has announced the dispatch of an emissary to the region, Richard Murphy, to "examine" this possibility apparently gave proof to the rumor that had reached that Likud personality.

Apparently, what Peres told U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis during their meeting should have left no room for speculation on the matter. Peres explained to Lewis that Israel totally objects to any advance meeting between the Americans and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Lewis asked the prime minister: What if the delegation does not include any PLO members?

I do not care who is in the delegation, Peres replied, I am not prepared to have the United States conduct preliminary talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as part of the "Mubarak initiative."

Evidently the source of the misunderstanding is the fact that Peres had told the Americans that he had no objection to their holding advance talks in Washington with **Egypt** and **Jordan** (the emphasis being on Jordan, not a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation), if this ultimately leads to a tripartite meeting that would include Israel as well. Perhaps the "non-Israeli source" who related this provided his own interpretation to Peres' readiness, and it was **he** who regarded it as somewhat of a go-ahead for the Americans to proceed toward Mubarak.

Yet Peres' repeated clarifications to Lewis yielded the desirable outcome: Washington told the prime minister "in the clearest possible manner," as Peres told someone, that he has nothing to worry about. The administration will not respond to this move by Egypt and Jordan, and will not receive a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

If this is the case, what will Richard Murphy actually do here, in light of the repeated Husayn and Mubarak declarations that the PLO must be represented in the talks "a la Mubarak," which supplement the earlier accord between Husayn and 'Arafat?

It seems that Peres also believes Murphy will be forced to go back empty-handed, because Egypt will not be able to accept a move that Jordan has no part in. Jordan, for its part, will not be able to join the talks without 'Arafat's blessing and he, thanks to pressure from his close associates, will say that the PLO **must** be represented by itself, rather than share the seat with Husayn. At this point the initiative goes back to square one.

It looks as though the prime minister, who during the first stages was portrayed as an advocate of the Egyptian president's initiative, has already accepted the fact that it is defunct. The fact that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz also said that he is reconciled to Murphy only "trying to examine" (the business of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation) does not conflict with the clear-cut pledge made to the prime minister on the matter. Shultz explained that the Egyptian president must not be allowed to leave the United States feeling humilitated and offended. That is why the Americans agreed to say that the matter will be "looked into." Evidently even Egypt realizes that its initiative will fail.

During one of his meetings with Jewish leaders in Washington, Mubarak was cornered countless times and was asked why he was not returning his ambassador to Tel Aviv. At first he tried to evade the question and "promise" that "it will happen soon," without specifying exactly how "soon" this will indeed take place. Finally he admitted that on this matter he must maintain "equilibrium" with the Arab world.

It is already clear why Egypt keeps on raising the price for the return of the ambassador. At first they told us and Shultz personally: Just let the Israelis withdraw from Lebanon, and the ambassador will be back. Then they added one more condition: "improving the standard of living" for the inhabitants of the West Bank. So, Peres came and promised to establish an Arab bank there, and other similar promises "to improve the quality of life." So, the Egyptians said: That is all fine, but the Egyptian ambassador did not return. When the Egyptians ran out of pretexts, such as "the solution of the Tabah problem," they found yet another: Solving the Palestinian problem... The prime minister's shift toward "autonomy," while emphasizing that this is the most realistic idea, may have resulted from the lesson he learned from the Tabah affair. Peres was convinced that in fact there was no problem in reaching a settlement with the Egyptians about that small territory. After all, how large is it — a mere 800 square meters?

However, Justice Minister Moshe Nisim said: You see how the Egyptians are not prepared to compromise over a few hundred square meters, so who can think that Jordan will give up **about one-third** of the West Bank?!

No one can tell whether this is the same line of thought that prompted the prime minsiter to move away from the idea of territorial compromise and adhere to autonomy. Yet there is one thing that Peres could have been convinced of: Jordan, like Egypt, will not enter into any arrangement that will involve concessions on sovereignty. That bred the "turning point," which means that in abiding by the idea of autonomy now, Peres may not immediately promote peace with Jordan, but he might promote peace with... the Likud.

MA'ARIV Comments on Jordan-Palestinian Delegation

TA250940 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Mar 85

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Text] MA'ARIV says that something went wrong with the moves to bring about negotiations between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Jerusalem fears that the Americans will disregard their commitment not to negotiate with the PLO and will believe that Israel in fact does not care who is chosen to represent the Palestinians. It seems as though we have managed to take a very clear issue and blur it to such an extent that no one knows anymore who is fit to participate in the delegation and who has to agree to its composition — Israel or the PLO.

OCAM, Air Afrique Heads of State Summits End

OCAM To Be Dissolved

AB241045 Dakar PANA in French 0939 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Lome, 24 Mar (ATOP/PANA) — The heads of state of the African and Mauritian Common Organization (OCAM) decided yesterday, 23 March, in Lome to dissolve the organization following their 12th conference, which ended yesterday afternoon in the Togolese capital.

A ministerial committee consisting of the representatives of all the member-states was charged with selling the organization's properties.

The OCAM, which was established in 1965, is made up of Benin, Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Niger, and Mauritius, which left the organization 3 years ago.

Air Afrique Austerity Measures

AB241025 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Lome, March 24 (AFP) — A strict economic recovery program adopted yesterday by leaders of the 10 states that own Air Afrique will entail the dismissal of nearly 1,000 employees, one-sixth of the airline's payroll, sources close to the firm said. The sources said that the number of employees has continued to grow at Air Afrique, despite orders several years ago to cut back on hiring new staff.

Air Afrique has fallen deeply in debt, with operating losses last year estimated at more than eight million dollars.

They said that 983 of the 5,660 workers would have to be sacked under the plan adopted here at a meeting of the heads of state of Air Afrique owners — Benin, Chad, Congo, Ivory Coast, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Burkina Faso and ministers from Mauritania and the Central African Republic.

Other austerity measures included lowering company salaries and benefits and stricter management control over operating expenses and cut-rate fares, the sources said.

Houphouet-Boigny Meets With Summit Leaders

Sankara, Habre

AB241455 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] The head of state, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, continues with his stay in the Togolese capital. This morning he attended church service after receiving in audience the presidents of Burkina, Thomas Sankara, and of Chad, Hissein Habre.

Meets Other Leaders

AB222215 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The head of state, who is currently in Lome for the summit of heads of state of Air Afrique member-states, this morning received in audience Presidents Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo, Seyni Kountche of Niger, and Mathieu Kerekou of Benin. This afternoon, he held talks with the Senegalese president, Abdou Diouf. Yesterday, he received Presidents Eyadema and Hissein Habre. It should be noted that the CAR and Mauritania are represented at this conference by ministerial delegations.

PANA Council To Consider Admission of SDAR

MB240900 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Lucio Lara, member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party and chairman of the Intergovernmental Council of PANA, has been in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, since yesterday to chair another session of the Council to be held on 26 March. Shortly before departure from Luanda for the Ethiopian capital, Lucio Lara told ANGOP that the meeting will basically analyze the situation created by the SDAR's request to be admitted to the organization. Other problems relating to the functioning of the agency will be discussed.

The People's Republic of Angola will be represented at the meeting by a high-ranking party delegation led by Comrade Roberto de Almeida, secretary for the ideological work of the MPLA-Labor Party's Central Committee. Robert de Almeida was previously in Maputo, where he attended a ministerial information conference of the Portuguese-speaking African countries, which was organized to find common views among the five to be submitted to the Addis Ababa meeting.

ALGERIA

President Receives Saudi, Kuwaiti Ministers

LD250330 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The head of state received today the foreign affairs ministers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The talks with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and with Shaykh Sa'ud al-Faysal took place in the presence of Mr Taleb Ibrahimi. Our foreign affairs minister was also received by the head of state before his departure tomorrow for Tunis to attend the meeting of the Arab League council meeting.

The president of the Republic also received Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi before his departure tomorrow for Yugoslavia.

LIBYA

GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Tipoli

LD241052 Tripoli JANA in English 1000 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Rajab 1, March 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The German Democratic Republic's deputy foreign minister, Gerd Koenig, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Joint Talks Held

LD251016 Tripoli JANA in English 0936 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Rajab 2, March 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — An Arab Libyan-German meeting was held last night at the Foreign Liaison Bureau to discuss means to boost co-operation between the two countries. The meeting was attended by a member of the Foreign Liaison Bureau, several technicians and experts and by the Democratic German foreign minister [as received] and his delegation.

Arab People's Congress on Pan-Arab Mobilization

LD250943 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The council of representatives at the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress held an ordinary meeting yesterday evening in Tripoli. The conferees studied how to implement the resolutions of the first 1985 session of the Permanent Secretariat within the framework of combatting the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary attack and implementing the pan-Arab popular mobilization in order to incite the Arab masses to shoulder their responsibilities against the American bases in the interests in the Arab homeland and against the reactionary, capitulatory stances of the Arab regimes, the humiliating trips being made by the Arab leaders to the White House, and in respect of the war of annihilation being waged against the Arab people in Palestine and against Lebanon by the Zionists.

MAURITANIA

President Meets With SDAR Prime Minister 24 Mar

LD250249 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Colonel Maayouia Ould Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, a short while ago received Mahfoud Ali Beida, the prime minister of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic [SDAR]. The meeting was attended by Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and [name indistinct], the head of the office of the head of state.

In a statement to our correspondent after the meeting, the SDAR official pointed out that he conveyed to his excellency the head of state a message from the president of the SDAR. He also reviewed with him the situation in the area. He added that his excellency the head of state reaffirmed to him Mauritania's strong resolve to work for spreading peace and amity in the areas.

The SDAR prime minister thanked the head of state for the attention he has given despite the head of state's many preoccupations.

Senegal, Mali Leaders Arrive For Cooperation Talks

LD250307 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Abdou Diouf, the president of Senegal, and Moussa Traore, of Mali, arrived this evening in the capital. With their arrival, preparations are completed for holding the eighth summit conference of the organization for exploiting the Senegal River.

Each of the presidents was received at the airport by Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state.

After the reception ceremony the presidents went to the VIP hall, where Abdou Diouf, the Senegalese president gave a statement to the regional press, in which he said: I would like to sincerely thank my brother and friend, Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Ould Taya, who has greeted me with sincere fraternal feelings. This meeting is the first of its kind since he came to office as head of state. I recall that Nouakchott hosted a meeting a few days ago for the supreme Mauritanian-Senegalese joint committee for cooperation. I take this chance to convey to all the Mauritanian people the feelings of fraternity felt toward them by the Senegalese people. I come as the current chairman of the organization for the exploitation of the Senegal River to chair the organization's summit.

Therefore, I come with conviction and hopes for overcoming the difficulties that have arisen from the international crisis. Before presenting the achievements of the organization and adopting resolutions and studying the files, we have to review the results of the work of the experts and ministers.

About the period after the (?two dams), Senegalese President Abdou Diouf said: After we make sure that the basic projects in the program for the reforming the river's basin are implemented, we will need to find out how much these projects will improve the circumstances of the population by increasing agricultural production despite bad weather changes, replacing seasonal agriculture with permanently irrigated agriculture.

The Senegalese president added that the question now is how to get the financing for the organization's projects in the period after building the two dams. But Abdou Diouf says we can be optimistic because of the increasing credibility of the organization in the world and because of the solidarity of the three countries, which is represented by the strong friendship among their presidents and their political will. At any rate, we are committed to facing the challenge with all our will, firmness, and faith. I am convinced that we will be able to face up to this challenge.

At 1800 today, Mali President Moussa Traore arrived in the capital. Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Ould Taya, the head of the state and chairman of the CMSN, was among those greeting The two presidents went to the airport VIP hall where the president of Mali gave a statement to the national press.

MOROCCO

King Hassan's Marrakech Press Conference

PM211600 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 10 Mar 85 pp 1-3

[MAP report: "My Country's Interests Come Before All Other Considerations"]

[Text] Marrakech, 10 March — His Majesty King Hassan II gave a press conference in the Marrakech Royal Palace Friday evening [8 March] at which the king answered several questions from representatives of the national and international press.

XINHUA: I would like to ask Your Majesty a few questions on the Sahara. There was talk recently of an Algerian proposal for internal autonomy in the Sahara. If this proposal exists, Your Majesty, of what does it essentially consist, and what is the Moroccan position on this proposal? The second question, Your Majesty, is that for some months there have been frequent meetings between Moroccan and Algerian officials to discuss the Sahara question. Have those meetings produced postive results? The last question relates to Your Majesty's tour of the Sahara: Can you tell us, Your Majesty, when this tour will begin?

His Majesty the King: I think the questions asked by XINHUA's representative are relevant questions and will cover a number of questions which many of you had planned to ask. First, I would like to say that Morocco pledges now and for the future, and when I say future I mean ad aeternam, never to hold a Yalta conference or to participate in a Yalta conference on the African countries in general of on regional states or neighboring states.

Having said that, I will explain: Any proposals which are made to us, have already been made to us, or might be made to us could not be accepted if it were a case of two or three parties deciding the fate and future of African populations and territories. We have two immutable rules which could never be broken: first, the freely expressed will of the populations; second, respect for the expressed will.

Thus you will understand that, as far as Morocco is concerned, there could not be any third answer. There are two questions which were raised by the OAU at the second Nairobi summit, in the resolutions which laid down the methods by which and geographical area in which the poll should be carried out.

These two questions are: 1) Do you want to be independent? 2) Do you want to be attached to Morocco? So, the situation is clear. I have too much respect for the African populations, whether those of the south, central Africa, the north, east, or west, to assume the right to decide their status and their fate without their consent. I do not think my country has the right to decide the future of a particular African population alone or with one or two partners. It is a matter of dignity and of ethics.

So for us the question is simple. There is no internal autonomy; there is no real union; we are not setting up orbital stations in the air and in space like cosmonauts, because if we did, we would necessarily be in a state of weightlessness. We are on earth, on African soil, in a region which has always lived bound by age-old ties of fraternity, from Libya to Mauritania. There cannot be a third solution for us. There are two solutions — to create the conditions required and laid down by the Nairobi resolutions, to hold the referendum, and ultimately, to be bound by the results of that referendum, which only asks two questions — do you want to be independent? Do you want to be attached to Morocco — and I pray God not to allow one of my descendants to succeed if ever, as I said, this country is the seat of a Yalta conference to divide up the region, or the accomplice of a Yalta conference to make countries smaller or curb their freedoms, or to undermine their sovereignty. To move on to the second question, we will be very happy for you to accompany us on the tour we are starting Sunday morning.

The Law Is Indivisible

LE FIGARO: Your Majesty, Morocco seems to have left the OAU once and for all. Do you intend to ask the UN Security Council to hold a referendum on self-determination in the Sahara?

His Majesty the King: There is no doubt that, as we said in the message which was read by the head of our delegation in Addis Ababa when we left our brothers, law is indivisible and cannot be discriminatory or applied in part.

Given that recognition was granted to a so-called state, in virtually complete ignorance and showing complete disdain for Article No 3 of the OAU Charter, and given that it was granted the right to form part of the OAU, Morocco could neither sit in an assembly which introduced illegality into its proceedings nor regard itself as bound by the decisions made by the OAU, and hence from that time Morocco has continued to have bilateral relations with all African countries, and even plans to develop them, but it does not regard itself as bound by the OAU decisions.

I hope that the next OAU summit might clarify the situation. I would like you to take note of that because, in my view, the so-called SDAR has not been legally admitted. The session ended in turmoil. There was no resolution recognizing the SDAR's admission, there was no resolution welcoming it and declaring it to be the 51st OAU member, and, finally, the SDAR's presence was a physical presence and I do not regard it as legal.

I know many African heads of state who refuse and will continue to refuse to recognize the SDAR. So, in my view, the next African summit will either entrench the OAU in illegality — recognize and stand by it — or it will be the summit of enlightenment, because no one went beyond the fact that the SDAR was there physically, its representative was not allowed to speak, he was not congratulated or publicly received. And when one country — it was either Madagascar or Burkina Faso — wanted to read (this was what I was told, I was not there) a resolution welcoming him, President Nyerere took the resolution and put it aside. So I am as anxious as you to clear up this ambiguity because, at all events, it will shed new light on the problem.

Let us now return to your question on the Security Council. The OAU has hitherto not recognized (the SDAR) officially or legally. If we want to be consistent, we must reject not in full but in part the OAU's authority with regard to the referendum. We would therefore be logically and legally authorized, I would even say obliged, to ask the United Nations and the OAU, I do not say that the OAU should be set aside; first, in my view it would not be an insult to the OAU, because the OAU is not entirely diseased from south to north from east to west, and, in addition, I cannot ask the United Nations to completely disregard a regional body which deals with Africa, and which is called the OAU. [sentence as published]

So, logically, and I think I am entitled to say this as I have nothing to hide, I have no strategy to draw up in secret, I will try, without setting aside the OAU, to ask the United Nations to take part in implementing the 1982 Nairobi resolutions on the methods of conducting the referendum as quickly as possible, because this is threatening peace in the region, and to try to ensure that this referendum takes place under the best, most legal, and most sincere conditions.

LE POINT: Your Majesty, since Algeria had always supported the referendum, which it thought should logically lead to independence, do you think that the latest proposals the Algerians made to you following your various preliminary talks correspond to a change of policy in Algeria and, in your view, why? Why this change of policy?

His Majesty the King: First, so far none of you has said what the Algerian proposals were, and I do not think you have heard of [apparent drop] I will merely tell you, madam, that Algeria and a number of countries have pilloried us for years, describing us as hegemonists and imperialists and clamoring for self-determination.

I even remember that the last time I met with the late President Boumedienne, God rest his soul, I said it is unthinkable that you should ask for self-determination when you know very well that these populations are Moroccan. He said to me in reply: You must understand that I cannot talk of self-determination for Vietnam — the Vietnam War was going on at the time — when there is a people on my border wanting self-determination.

I hesitated for a long time before accepting the referendum. I hesitated for psychological reasons, in that I saw the Saharan populations you have visited, I saw that they were Moroccan to the core, I saw them take part in parliamentary, regional, and commune elections several times, and I saw them at the ceremonies of allegiance. In short I saw them persisting in their Moroccan nature in a way which was tenacious; there is no stronger word to describe it. And people said to me that it was almost an insult to them to agree to a referendum, but, after contacting the various people concerned, and especially my Saharan Consultative Council, which comprises more than 90 people from different tribes, before going to Nairobi, I said to them: Listen, I will not insult you by casting doubt on your Moroccan nature, but allow me to get out of this difficulty by proposing a referendum which will merely confirm what we know to be the situation. And I never — and, in my view, that was the mistake — attended any summit conference for years, it was always my prime minister who represented me. And then, suddenly, Hassan II was seen arriving in Nairobi.

Morocco Is Comfortable in Its Sound Positions

I do not think there are any good analysts in the world any longer, because if there were people with flair and a sixth sense, they would have understood that if Hassan II was arriving there it was for something new, and that was where I proposed my referendum. And at the time President Bongo, my friend and brother, made a comment which is really quite amusing and edifying. After my speech in which I said that I accepted the referendum, many delegations hostile to Morocco stood up to read the speeches they had already written before hearing mine, so much so that President Bongo said: My poor friends, you do not seem able to improvise, you have just seen my brother Hassan II grant a referendum yet you read the speeches you wrote 4 or 5 days ago back home in your capitals.

You cannot play around with ideas like self-determination. Self-determination is not just any old thing, it is a respectable legal procedure. So people want self-determination, I want it, and you cannot imagine, madam, since it was you who asked the question, or you ladies and gentlemen, how much I feel that Morocco is comfortable in its sound positions because in politics a comfortable position is being in the right and having virtue on your side. Well, Morocco is comfortable in its armchair. It is simply asking for justice, for the right of peoples to determine their own future. Hence we are in no hurry; if people want to hold the referendum tomorrow we are ready, and if they do not want it, it is those who no longer want the referendum who will suffer greatly in Africa and in the world. I think I have answered you in full, madam.

AL-ANBA': Your Majesty, it has been said that during the latest contacts Algeria proposed a kind of autonomy in the Sahara based on the Saharan people's allegiance to the Alawite throne but enjoying economic and administrative independence and foreign representation. Your Majesty, are you thinking of a form of autonomy in the Sahara in the framework of Moroccan territorial integrity?

His Majesty the King: It seems that you are better informed than we are about what Algeria proposed. But let us suppose that what Algeria proposed corresponds to your description, it is only possible to talk of a particular organizational framework in the Sahara once its fate has been decided with regard to sovereignty.

If the referendum on self-determination confirms the Sahara's attachment to Morocco, it will be up to Rabat, the capital, to deal in complete sovereignty with the Saharans who are full Moroccan citizens. On the other hand if the inhabitants of the Sahara reject — and I cannot imagine them doing so — integration in Morocco, there would be no reason to discuss special status for the Saharan provinces. Thus it seems obvious that the referendum on the right to self-determination is an essential precondition for any future solution.

AL-SIYASAH: Your Majesty, diplomatic sources have reported an attempted coup in Mauritania against President Ould Taya, led by Algerian officers and soldiers, and the arrest of the latter by the Royal Armed Forces [FAR] while crossing the Moroccan Sahara. In addition, do the FAR intend to attack the bases which launched the SAM missiles which downed a Moroccan airplane and a German civilian airplane, should the FAR be attacked in future?

His Majesty the King: As far as the first question is concerned, we do not know of any attempted coup d'etat in Mauritania, and I know absolutely nothing about it. It is the first time that I have heard about it. Rest assured that Moroccan soldiers did not intercept the alleged perpetrators of a coup d'etat. This report is therefore absolutely untrue. It is trumped up and completely untrue.

With regard to pursuit, it concerns the FAR General Staff in particular, and, in our view, it is neither appropriate nor reassuring for public opinion in general to give you any reply to your question.

Morocco Will Not Return to the OAU Until the Reasons for Its Departure Have Been Removed

Central Africa Radio: Your Majesty, you said just now that the forthcoming OAU summit will either be the summit of entrenchment or the summit of enlightenment. Can you tell us whether or not Morocco will take part in the forthcoming summit? Will it send an observer? Or will it purely and simply be absent?

His Majesty the King: You know, it was not easy for Morocco to leave the OAU. It did so in full awareness of what it was doing. But it was a heartrending experience, and is still a source of great pain to us. But everybody thought that it was a maneuver aimed at exerting pressure. We left the OAU for very specific reasons which history — not a long time in the future but very soon — will regard as relevant and judicious. While those reasons still exist, Morocco will not return to the OAU in any form. It will continue to be the friend of all African countries, will continue to be African in thought, and heart, and roots, and will continue to have bilateral relations with many African states, but will not return to the OAU until the reasons for its departure have been removed.

Contacts Between Morocco and Algeria

Radio France International: Your Majesty, I would very much like you to talk to us a little about your contacts with Algeria. You met with the Algerian minister [as published] only recently. However, these contacts are veiled in the greatest secrecy. Could you say how they are going, first what you are discussing, and second whether you could give an opinion on the development of the Algerian regime? Some observers felt they could detect some change in President Bendjedid's latest speech, which some people thought was a little more moderate than usual. So do you think that the Algerian regime is moving toward an agreement with you?

His Majesty the King: First, the contacts have never been secret. They were unofficial contacts but not secret, since a Moroccan aircraft with its Moroccan emblem was seen at Boufarik Airport, and an Algerian aircraft with the Algerian emblem was seen at Fes or Marrakech airport. What is more, the delegates on both sides were seen by certain people several times. So they were not secret contacts. What did we discuss? Well, we could only discuss the subject which has unfortunately divided us for years.

As for telling you I detected a change in President Bendjedid's latest speech, I must tell you that since I was 17 years old I have learned not to take my decisions on the basis of the terms of speeches but on the basis of pledges, because circumstances may force a head of state — for temporary and I would even say transitory reasons — say something which he would not say the next day, or which he would contradict, so much so that I do not analyze the positions adopted by heads of state, whatever they might be, by trying to read between the lines. I only believe what has been agreed. And if some analysts see signs in the Algerian president's last speech of a return to a better understanding of things, I wholeheartedly hope they are right.

AL-NAHAR: Your Majesty, we noted that in your last speech you did not mention the Near East question once. Is that a clear-cut stance?

His Majesty the King: Certainly not, because political speeches, like press articles, always try to avoid unnecessary statements, and since nothing new has happened since the Fes resolutions, and since they are still valid, they are regarded as the line of conduct which received unanimous approval and are binding on everybody. We thought it would be repetitious and superfluous to reiterate what is clear and obvious. That is why we did not mention the subejct.

The Saharan Problem Is Closed According to the Arab League

AL-YAMAMAH: Your Majesty, why has the Sahara question so far not been submitted to the Arab League although the warring sides are all Arabs and members of the league and although OAU meetings found this problem to be an obstacle 2 years in succession and eventually proved incapable of solving the conflict? Thank you.

His Majesty the King: We do not think it is necessary to confirm the obvious because in 1974 at the Rabat summit the Algerian president said that his country does not covet the Sahara and has no interest in that territory. Mauritania then gave up part of the Sahara. However, in international law and in private law, Morocco had the right of priority and preemption. Since Mauritania withdrew, Morocco naturally took over.

As far as the Arab League is concerned the matter is closed. There are already many reasons for disagreement in the Arab League, and Morocco, out of respect for that organization and to spare it and safeguard it, did not want to further complicate the situation. So, being anxious to bring Arab viewpoints as close together as possible on the Palestinian question, which is the leading and vital cause, we preferred to prevent the Arab League from becoming bogged down in an affair which is far from being as important as the Palestinian question. In any case, this shows the importance we attach to Arab ideals and our constant sacrifices for the Arab nation's sacred causes.

However, the Arab League regards the problem you mention here as closed.

Direct Confrontation Between Morocco and Algeria Would Be the Height of Stupidity

Mediterranean International Radio: Your Majesty, you have frequently reaffirmed the intention — and I quote Your Majesty not to damage the future of the Moroccan and Algerian peoples. General Bennani, who commands the southern zone, also stressed just 24 hours ago the official instructions Your Majesty gave to his General Staff, and I quote the general: his majesty asked us to design a defense system for the Sahara which makes it possible to stop the war or to reduce it to its simplest level. We have seen the result: four walls of electronic early earning systems along the 1,400 km of border with the Algerian Sahara. My question is the following: Your Majesty, do you now think that this politico-military safety device is now adequate to prevent a direct confrontation between the two countries?

His Majesty the King: You know, with or without the wall direct confrontation would, in my view, be not the worst crime but the height of stupidity, especially since we can see what is happening between Iraq and Iran. If there was ever a war between Morocco and Algeria it would not settle anything at all, it would not solve any problem. As head of state I have the right to have my opinions on a number of problems. It is not always good to express them, but it is sometimes useful. In my view, just as there is a highway code and a code of ethics for doctors and lawyers, there is a code for war. If you cannot defeat your enemy for a generation, then do not wage war on him. That is my code of ethics. And with or without a wall, Algeria would not defeat us and we would not defeat Algeria.

So that is why it is better not even to contemplate such an eventuality, because it would take those who decided to open hostilities back to the caveman era.

I Am King of Morocco First and Friend of the United States Second

ASSOCIATED PRESS: The U.S. Administration publicly and strongly criticized your agreement with President al-Qadhdhafi. I would like to ask you whether you feel you have allayed that criticism after your recent discussions with General Walters and Mrs Kirkpatrick?

His Majesty the King: The U.S. Administration did publicly criticize the treaty with Libya, but it did not do so in strong terms, first because it did not do so, and second because it has no right to do so. I may publicly criticize the United States tomorrow, but I will do so in a proper fashion, respecting its independence and sovereignty. Let us say that it criticized it publicly, but I would not have allowed it to do so strongly. Moreover, I do not think it did so.

Morocco nonetheless has its priorities, and there was no choice between the Moroccan priority of the moment and the American priority of the moment. The agreement was reached right in the middle of the election campaign, in August. I fully understand that it embarrassed the candidates. But I told you that before being the friend of the United States, I am first the king of Morocco and my country's interests come before all other considerations.

Nonetheless, to conclude on this subject, things have been settled because not only the United States but the USSR, Europe, Africa, and the whole world have been able to see that Libya and Morocco did not lose their personal freedom of action or abandon their former friendships in implementing this agreement. I do not know what treaties Col al-Qadhdhafi, my partner, has with the USSR, and it is none of my business, and, similarly, what exists between the United States and Morocco does not concern President al-Qadhdhafi, my partner, unless of course in either case there were harmful consequences for one of the two sides. But as long as we live side by side on good terms and hence each of us ensures that his agreements or friendships do not interfere with the union, each of us is free to pursue his foreign policy, and, on that point, I said to Col al-Qadhdhafi and he said to me, and he reiterated it before we signed the agreement, there was from the start a desire not to restrict our diplomatic freedom, unless it essentially ran counter to the spirit of the treaty of state union.

The King's Visit to the Southern Provinces

West German press organ: Your Majesty, why did you postpone your tour of the Saharan provinces, and why did you not celebrate the Festival of the Throne in the Sahara?

His Majesty the King: Well, I will tell you quite simply why. You see, the festival of allegiance is a ceremony which lasts 45 minutes. While on a working visit, touring the provinces and deputies, I believe I received a letter from Mr Ahmed Osman, the speaker of the Assembly, the House of Representatives, stating that Parliament had decided to hold a special session in Laayoune. As you know, decisions to hold special sessions in our country are made either in the Cabinet by a decree issued by the prime minister, or by an absolute majority of the House according to a very specific agenda. So what was the best thing to do?

Go there for 1 hour, hold the ceremony of allegiance, and return, or stay there for a few days, examine the problems, visit the soldiers on the front, inspect economic and social achievements, and allow Parliament to sit in the city of Laayoune, as it can do in any other city in Morocco? I think that, seen from this angle, it was more useful not to go there for the festival of allegiance, especially since it would have been very difficult to house all those who would have liked to attend in a minimum of comfort.

All the Arab Countries Are Still Bound by the Fes Summit

THE OBSERVER: Your Majesty, do you support President Mubarak's recent proposal to bring Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the table under U.S. patronage?

His Majesty the King: In this sphere we can only make one observation. The Arab plan drawn up at the Fes summit is the first Arab plan, it is the first positive plan which the Arabs have drawn up, and it is the only one so far which has won the unanimous support of all the Arab states. Moreover, from 1982 to the present, many things have happened in the Middle East, and many splits have appeared in Arab ranks. Despite all that, the Arab countries have so far remained unanimously bound by the Fes summit.

So for us salvation lies primarily in saving and safeguarding what everybody agrees, and we have not always all been in agreement. In my view only a summit meeting could say, through analysis and reference to the spirit of the Fes plan, whether President Mubarak's initiative can, by forming part of this plan, facilitate the peace process, or whether instead it contradicts the letter and spirit of the Fes summit. This can only be decided or analyzed at the next Riyadh summit. But, as far as I am concerned, I will refrain from giving a judgment on the future of President Mubarak's proposals because they are insignificant proposals compared with the unanimity of the Fes plan. If my brothers, the kings, presidents, and amirs of the Arab world, think it can be included in the Fes plan, well, we must do so and ensure that it succeeds, but for the time being it is something to be jointly examined at an Arab summit.

Morocco-Algeria: We Have Neither Broken Off Nor Frozen Dialogue

UKAZ: Your Majesty, people have suddenly stopped talking about the possibility of holding a Moroccan-Algerian summit, in the light of the sustained contacts between the two countries. To what extent did mediation by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries succeed in reconciling the two countries' viewpoints, and is it true that Algeria laid it down as a precondition that the so-called Polisario government should take part in that meeting? Your Majesty, what formula do you think could help bring about such a meeting?

His Majesty the King: There were indeed prospects for holding a Moroccan-Algerian summit and they still exist. In fact we have not broken off or frozen dialogue, because we think the time is right for thought and patience. If it proves necessary to open dialogue, it must under no circumstances deal with sacrosanct institutions. On the other hand if the aim of dialogue is to strengthen and show mutual respect for those institutions it will become possible and necessary to open it. So we are now taking a break, as occurs halfway through a soccer match.

In so doing, we must beg the Almighty to shower blessings on King Fahd, who, as usual, is sparing no effort to smooth out differences between Arab brothers. But we do not think that it is possible to talk of mediation in the full legal and political meaning of the term. Nonetheless, His Majesty King Fahd fraternally urged Morocco and Algeria to seriously seek a common denominator for settling their dispute, and that was all.

LE MONDE: You talk us before that you planned to turn to the United Nations, not forgetting the OAU, with a view to holding a referendum on the Sahara. Could you explain to us when it might be held and whether you personally want it to be held before the end of this year, which marks the 10th anniversary of the Green March.

His Majesty the King: As you know, madam, the complexities of the United Nations are innumerable. Its procedures are not the simplest. In addition to that, we must take account of the situation. We will do what is necessary. How? I cannot tell you, not because I want to conceal it, I myself do not yet have a very clear plan in mind. We definitely must not discard the OAU, since since it is a regional assembly.

The whole is the United Nations, since it is a world assembly. We must therefore try to link the part with the whole so that both can hold this referendum. It would be stating the obvious for me to tell you that I want it to be held as soon as possible, because each passing day costs us money, and especially men. If the referendum could be held tomorrow, I would be glad to hold it. But if it is not held, as I said before, Morocco is in a comfortable position. Morocco is not in an uncomfortable position but at ease, because it has international law on its side, that of the people's inalienable right to determine their own future. Nonetheless, if they want to hold it tomorrow, I am ready. If I was told it would be held on Monday, I would postpone my visit to the Sahara.

Radio France International: Allow me to return to the subject of the Western Sahara. We visited part of the Sahara. We observed that you have good military control over it. But we saw that one part, north of the 26th parallel, is not under your control — for instance, Tifariti is still outside, as is a whole section of the south called Rio de Oro and Tiris al Gharbia. I would like to know what your intentions are. Are you going to surround the whole Sahara with a wall or are you going control it in some way, since the Polisario has shot down several aircraft? It even located them according to what we were told. So we would like to know the truth.

His Majesty the King: You are determined to make me commit a crime. Well, I will not do so. All I can tell you is that it was not the Polisario which shot down my aircraft with SAM-6 missiles. This is very important. I must tell you I do not know who did it, but it was not the Polisario.

You just have to ask your military attache and the Soviet military attache in Paris to explain to you the terribly sophisticated equipment involved in using a SAM-6 missile. You need two radars — an acquisition radar and a guidance radar. These two radars both have extremely sophisticated electronic devices. We have made a great effort in the Sahara and it is only this year that we have finally produced 1090 successful baccalaureate candidates. Despite the fact that they have the baccalaureate, they could not master the plans and assembly of aquisition and pursuit radar, so the Polisario men would be even less capable of doing so. So it was not the Polisario which shot down my aircraft.

The second point is that we did not build the wall to make one region secure, but in fact if you look closely at the map of the Sahara, you will see that it is geographically divided in twoparts: The north, Saguia el Hambra, with its valleys, is extremely hilly, with peaks of over 1,200 meters and chalky crevasses with steep gorges, which can hide several divisions. In the south, at the end of the Oued Sakis, toward Algeria, where the wall ends, and in the south, with the rocky plateaus of the Saharan desert, you can see anybody coming from a distance, from 20 or 30 km away, without radar or anything. And not only can you see them coming, but you can destroy anything which comes. There is no natural hiding place — that is the philosophy behind the wall.

The USSR's Position on Control of Gibraltar by a Single State

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Your Majesty, if you will allow me, I will turn to another subject, that of Ceuta and Melilla. In an interview on Spanish television you discussed the considerations which might determine the Soviet Union's position on the control of the Strait of Gibraltar by a single state. Is it a matter of direct or indirect Soviet support for Morocco's legitimate right to recover the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, or an indication of some change in Moroccan-Soviet relations?

His Majesty the King: Our reply on this point on Spanish television was a logical and clear reply because, as you know, there are three points of passage for the Soviet fleet: the passage on the Siberian coast, the north passage in the North Sea, and the Gibraltar passage to the Atlantic Ocean. It is therefore not reasonable to think that the Soviet Union is going to abandon the Mediterranean to the 6th Fleet, because Spain is a NATO member, and if the forthcoming referendum reaffirms its membership of the Atlantic alliance, it would put an end to the free movement of the Soviet Union's Southern Fleet, because it would no longer be free to move around the Mediterranean since Spain, a member of the Atlantic alliance, would control that strait.

So our analysis is not inspired by the Soviets, nor is it the result of the state of Moroccan-Soviet relations, but it is an analysis based on simple logic and on an examination of the map.

Morocco's Candidacy for the Common Market

Portuguese Radio and Television: I would like to ask two questions. The Moroccan Constitution aspires to the achievement of African unity. However, around 30 countries on the continent have recognized the SDAR, thus sowing division in Africa instead of union. How do you explain this fact, Your Majesty? And my secondquestion: Does Morocco really want to join the EEC?

His Majesty the King: Madam, if a number of African countries have recognized the SDAR, that is their business, and I would not like to be in their shoes unless they have great courage, because one day they will revoke that recognition. That will take courage but, ultimately, I think if you are an honest man you are not afraid of admitting your mistakes. So, after all, when you think that Mexico was the only country to recognize the Spanish Republic until 4 years before Franco's death, 4 years before Franco's death Mexico still recognized the Spanish Republic, then I think that anomalies of this kind are very common in the modern world.

As for your second question, Morocco has indeed officially applied for full membership of the Common Market, and I must say that when it submitted its application, as I expained in my accession anniversary speech, it was not motivated by commercial or financial considerations because, if that had been its aim, we would have become lost once and for all in the maze of Common Market legislation. I thought it was better to take the political approach, because the decision is a political decision, and in my accession anniversary speech you will find the political reasons which I put forward — geography, complementarity, the future Maghreb — because I believe in them, the permanent link between Morocco and Spain, and finally the institutional similarity of the economic and social choices made by Morocco and — God willing — by its future Common Market partners.

Portuguese Radio and Television: The export of your main products to Europe will be affected by the expansion of the EEC to include Spain and Portugal. Morocco's membership therefore seems to be more economic than political.

His Majesty the King: No, Madam, you have failed to understand. Europe is no longer lagging behind strategically in the political sphere. Europe, with its growing populations, is going to expand its cities and reduce the area available for growing potatoes, tomatoes, and cucumbers. Europe is going to be hungry one day, because your social laws means that people are no longer working, you will need a strategic hinterland in order to breathe, and you will find that strategic hinterland more easily in Morocco than in Greece, geographically speaking. You will find it with gas and the pipeline, Libya's oil, Algeria's gas, the bridge to Spain, the pipeline from the Gulf of Guinea bringing energy to Europe. You will find it by making North Africa a link with Black Africa, which is rich in resources and future prospects, while waiting for Brazil to discover the skies, of course [sentence as published].

You no longer have any strategic refuge, you no longer have a retreat, and your strategic refuge, your room to breathe is North Africa, of which Morocco is the tip. You have to breathe. Do you know, madam, that Commander Cousteau made a study? I have great respect for that man, he knows the oceans very well, and his study is apocalyptic, he is a responsible man, and he has written and is still saying that it would just take one giant oil tanker to sink in the Mediterranean to destroy all fish in the Mediterranean for 15 years. I venture to quote this because this quotation is accurate. So look for your strategic refuge, your strategic refuge is in our country, if you do not want it now, you will come and seek it in 15 years' time.

Morocco-Senegal: Misunderstanding Has Been Cleared Up

LE POLITICIEN: Your Majesty, with your permission, I would like to ask you two questions, the first being: Senegal has always been Morocco's ally, but what about after the last OAU summit?

His Majesty the King: This "but" no longer exists. I met with President Abdou Diouf. It was a stupid misunderstanding in which we were both involved. It has been cleared up; it is over; that is all.

LE POLITICIEN: The second question is: Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko, exasperated by the deadlock in the OAU on the Sahara question, advocated the creation of a league of black states. Some Arab states protested that proposal. Morocco has not yet given a verdict on this proposal by President Mobutu Sese Seko. Can you tell us, Your Majesty, how you feel about this league of black states?

His Majesty the King: It is very simple: You just have to put the question to [former Senegalese] President Senghor, who has made a very detailed study of blood groups, and in this affair, when President Mobutu made his proposal, Morocco did not regard itself as white. With regard to blood groups, we think studies have been made, furthermore Professor Jean Bernard, our academician from the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco, who is known throughout the world, gave President Senghor a great deal of help in studying these blood groups — the Moroccan blood group is much closer to the southern Sahara than to the northern Sahara. That is why I did not protest; quite the reverse, I am waiting and hoping to be invited to join it. At least President Mobutu, who withdrew from the OAU, is a reasonable man and knows what is illegal and what is not. I am very happy to join hands with him for such a venture.

The Agreement Between His Majesty the King and Mr Yasir 'Arafat

Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah Television: Your Majesty, your NBC interlocutor began the interview last Monday by expressing the U.S. Administration's reservations and apprehensions about the Arab-African Treaty of Union. Your Majesty, do you think that is a form of interference in other people's internal affairs? Your Majesty, you have just said that developments in the Middle East question stopped with the Fes summit decisions. How do you view the agreement between King Husayn and 'Arafat?

His Majesty the King: First, when I gave an interview to the NBC correspondent, I was addressing a correspondent from a free press. It was not a speech to a U.S. official. It was a television interview which anybody might grant a journalist.

As for the agreement between His Majesty King Husayn and Mr Yasir 'Arafat, it may have some value and it might have no effect, in that if we intend it to have value, first, it must be approved by all factions of the PLO and, second, it must not be opposed by Syria, because the latter is the fundamental and vital element in any solution to the Near East question. Finally, it must be approved and supported by all the Arab countries within the framework of resolutions to which they subscribe. That is my objective analysis of your question.

AL-RIYAD: Your Majesty, you have a preponderant role in any Near East peace initiative. With a view to your forthcoming visit to the United States, is it possible to detect a concept likely to help make the U.S. stance more flexible, to force Israel to start negotiations under the auspices of an international peace conference?

His Majesty the King: I am sorry. I have no plans to visit the United States; no such visit is scheduled. Second, the United States does not seem to be in favor of an international conference. I personally think that this question is one of the points which we should examine during the next Arab summit conference to pick out the advantages and disadvantages of holding an international conference. So far the Arab countries have not yet made a decision on this subject, which, moreover, should be discussed at the next summit. We cannot give you any more information because we do not have all the necessary facts.

LE POINT: Your Majesty, I would like to return to a question which has already been discussed, namely contacts with Algeria. It has been said that Algeria suggested the creation of a Saharan entity linked by personal union to the king of Morocco, who would become king of Morocco and of the Sahara. Is this true? If so, who will have sovereignty, and if not, what proposal did Algeria really make to you?

His Majesty the King: You know, proposals are sometimes made for a joke, to produce a relaxed atmosphere. I think this is such a proposal. For instance, it would not be surprising for somebody to say in a conversation: What if the king of Morocco was also king of the Saharan Republic? (Laughter). That is all intended to produce a relaxed atmosphere and move on to more serious matters.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: Now that Morocco has a normal parliamentary life, is it prepared to ratify the 1972 agreement on Tindouf, if only to reduce Algerian hostility?

His Majesty the King: Last year, or perhaps the year before, since I did not understand Algeria's reticent attitude, I decided to send Mr Guedira, my adviser, to say to President Bendjedid: If it is only the question of ratifying the 1972 borders which is the problem, I can assure you that I am prepared to submit it to parliament as soon as the October session starts, and if it will satisfy you I will do it.

President Bendjedid's reply was very courteous, he said: I am not particularly anxious for you to do so, because I have full confidence in your majesty's word. His majesty gave his word and gave a pledge to the countries assembled in the OAU at the Rabat summit in 1972; the two foreign ministers signed the documents on the borders in the presence of all the African heads of state. I am satisfied with the king's word, and I am not particularly anxious for parliament to ratify it. The present situation satisfies me.

MESSAGE DE LA NATION: In the 3 March speech Your Majesty spoke of the Arab-African union and of the possibility of building the Greater Maghreb. Are these two different frameworks, two complementary frameworks, or two frameworks which will eventually merge?

His Majesty the King: In any case, it may just be a preferred framework; if the framework we mutually suggest for the Arab Maghreb was broader and more comprehensive than the Arab-African union, the latter would certainly merge with the broader framework. If, on the other hand, there were some reservations, we think that the framework of the treaty of union is a minimum framework in the legal and economic spheres, in the sphere of cultural exchanges, and for safeguarding sovereignty. There is no conflict in this sphere, if we achieve something better than the Arab-African union, it will merge into the better framework. What I say is that the whole contains the part.

Ivorian journalist: A question on Chad....

His Majesty the King: Do you have a clear view of the situation in Chad? I do not, I am listening, and we shall see.

Ivorian journalist: Your Majesty, at the last two OAU summits, Morocco supported the existing Ndjamena government, whereas Libya supported the National Unity Transition Government [GUNT]. After your union with Libya, can Morocco play the role of mediator? Do you plan to mediate in this Chadian affair?

His Majesty the King: Between whom?

Ivorian journalist: Between the protagonists.

His Majesty the King: Between Hissein Habre and Goukouni?

Ivorian journalist: Yes, if necessary using somebody as intermediary.

His Majesty the King: I know that many people have tried and failed, but if there is a chance, I ought to try it. What if I were to ask your opinion, do you think I have a chance of succeeding?

Ivorian journalist: I think so.

His Majesty the King: Go on, I am listening, because sometimes journalists know much more about things than heads of state, so what are my chances of succeeding?

Ivorian journalist: Since you are Libya's ally and Libya supports the GUNT, I think you could persuade Libya to find some ground for agreement.

His Majesty the King: But Libya is likely to say to me: Since you are united with me, why do you not support the same person as me?

Ivorian journalist: Your Majesty, you said just now that the union was not like that. However, I think that this problem has repercussions for the rest of Africa.

His Majesty the King: I know, sir. Look, I was anxious to have this dialogue with you, to discuss this question. The situation in Chad is serious. I think that everybody will be very happy to help you, but there would have to be a minimum of goodwill among the Chadians. I think that the problem of individuals should be removed. I am going to be very Shakespearian, if I can put it like that, and say that the nation comes before all else. I do not think Chad is a country which is poor in men, and if the interest of the Chadian nation is to come first, and if it is to be served by both Hissein Habre and Goukouni Oueddei standing down, I will be the first to call for statues to be put up to these two patriots if that is necessary, and if things go on as they are, I do not think we are within sight of the end. That is my answer, sir.

Ivorian journalist: I am Ivorian, Your Majesty, I am not Chadian.

His Majesty the King: Just a minute....Are we not always talking about African fraternity, so you are my brother and I am yours, we are all Chadians and Ivorians.

(Addressing the whole audience) I have given instructions to the Information Ministry that if any of you would like to accompany us on the tour of the south, you will be welcome and you will be our guests. So register yourselves if you wish, so that we will take account of your intention to join the tour.

SUDAN

Involvement in Airlift of Falashas Denied

LD242121 Kuwait KUNA in English 1834 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 24 (KUNA) — The Sudanese Embassy has strongly denied any Sudanese involvement in the reported American airlifting of Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) to Israel through Sudan. In a press statement issued Sunday evening [24 March] the embassy said "Sudan has not been and never will be a party," to the action.

Commenting on reports in local newspapers and agencies on the issue, the embassy said it was "regrettable" that the press was basing its reports on "colonialist Western news agencies" and ignoring Sudanese denials of complicity.

The Falasha airlift returned to the headlines after U.S. press reports said the C.I.A. had airlifted hundreds of Ethiopians from Sudan to be eventually settled as Israelis in Palestine.

A similar major Israeli-organized operation was reportedly halted in January because of Sudanese president Ja'far Numayri's embarrassment the publicity given. [sentence as received]

The current reported airlift is said to follow a meeting in Khartoum between Numayri and U.S. Vice-president George Bush, and reports implied that the Americans had pressurized Khartoum into restarting the operation.

The airlifting of Ethiopians to Palestine has been widely condemned in the Arab world, as the Falashas are given Israeli citizenship because of their Jewish religion, and settled in Palestine, original home of millions of dispossessed non-Jewish Palestinians denied their right to return by Israel. The move is seen as a consolidation of Israeli occupation and Jewish settlement, and consequently as a setback to peace efforts. Ethiopia has also opposed schemes to urge the Falashas to leave their country and emigrate to the Zionist state.

The embassy communique said reports of Sudanese complicity in the action were attempts to discredit the country, and that the government continued to support Arab rights.

Numayri Addresses SSU Central Leadership

JN231225 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Mar (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri delivered a speech at the SSU central leadership's opening session this morning. President Numayri said that this session takes place at a crucial time, not only because of the difficult economic circumstances, but also because it is the time to face reality with determination and the capability of revolutionaries. The president referred to the economic and social state of affairs and the national unity issue, stressing that these issues must be tackled seriously and courageously.

President Numayri said that the economic state of affairs is not the result of the failure of economic policies or planning but of international circumstances. President Numayri added that since Sudan is part of an integrated world economic system, it is affected by this system, stressing that the destructive effect of oil price increases world-wide will continue. He said in this respect that development projects such as roads, agricultural projects, and sugar and textile projects will increase Sudan's oil needs at a time when oil prices have increased 25 times.

President Numayri said that average consumption of oil and its byproducts in Sudan has undergone a great change and has sharply increased prices of farm and industrial production. President Numayri emphasized that Sudan has become a source of highly qualified technical manpower, stressing that Sudan's provision of such manpower has been in response to a pan-Arab need.

President Numayri pointed to fighting in some neighboring countries, stressing that it poses a threat to Sudan's security. He emphasized that Sudan's borders will not be closed in the face of all those who are afraid and seeking security. He added that the drought has encouraged more refugees, particularly from Ethiopia and from Sudan's western borders, to seek refuge in Sudan and that this has made Sudan experience a dual tribulation: drought from within and the refugees coming from without.

President Numayri explained that Sudan has managed to contain the results of drought and desertification within the limits of its capabilities.

President Numayri added that real security in Sudan can be measured only through Sudan's ability to host hundreds of thousands of refugees, providing them with security while Sudan's security is not affected by them. He added that Sudan has thanked the brothers and friends for their assistance, stressing that it depends on itself to confront this catastrophe.

President Numayri referred to his decision at the third SSU central leadership meeting on setting up a national fund for financing a national agricultural production project and for containing the effects of drought and desertification. He said that several projects will be implemented with assistance from the EEC, the United Nations, and the World Food Program. President Numayri said that the green move is a great project to confront desertification and drought. Any popular efforts in this direction will be accompanied by intensive official efforts. He also said that the exploitation of water sources and the production of grain must be stepped up.

President Numayri dealt with SSU initiatives in tackling desertification and drought. He also discussed the Higher National Economic Council's efforts in responding to demands for expansion of agricultural produce, increasing the revenues from this produce, enhancing the efficiency of the individual, and encouraging investment.

President Numayri announced that the Higher National Economic Council is carrying out an intensive study of conservation of all forms of energy. He said energy is being conserved without creating any constraints. He also said that the council is pinpointing faults in the balance of payments within the framework of a plan to increase production, attract foreign aid, fight inflation, and stabilize imports. He added that the council has also pinpointed faults in foreign currency dealings and succeeded in formulating a policy for dealing in foreign currencies through specialized banks in order to protect Sudanese expatriates from speculation by the greedy.

President Numayri pointed out that foreign investors are coming to Sudan despite biased rumors against Sudan abroad. He said Sudan has millions of feddans and contains rivers and enormous animal wealth and resources that, with some sacrifice, will enable it to create prosperity.

The president also spoke about social development in Sudan. He emphasized this is one of the country's top priorities and said that the option of great nations is to devote their energies to the broad bases. He added that the options of great nations is also not to succumb to pressure. The president referred to the great Al-Rahd project, the highway projects, the irrigation and industrial accomplishments, and the educational revolution. The president said the economic crisis is not stronger than the Sudanese people's willpower. He said Sudan will continue its efforts to build the homeland of pride and abundance and to carry out its programs even if the river dries up.

President Numayri expressed his pleasure at the establishment of the workers bank and explained that this bank is the beginning of the labor federation's efforts in serving the workers' causes. The president affirmed that the revolution is in favor of the workers and the other sectors of the alliance forces for the sake of reconstruction and production. He said the revolution will continue to favor the alliance forces under the SSU and its leadership. The president referred to the economic and social changes that have taken place and said that these changes prompted the revolution to revise the wages and salaries structure and to effect a 50 percent increase as of the beginning of the current month of Rajab.

President Numayri said the May Revolution has fought only for the sake of national unity and opened dialogue only under the slogan of national territorial integrity and willpower. The president added that the revolution has clashed with communism, racism, and sectarianism out of its faith in national unity. President Numayri said that the revolution is aware that the objective of our enemies is to disrupt Sudanese unity. He affirmed that hampering progress in Sudan occurs by hampering national unity and plotting against the country's territorial integrity.

President Numayri referred to the revolution's success in achieving peace and unity in Sudan. He said the revolution has remained steadfast despite all the obstacles and challenges it has faced, such as those who sought to disrupt development projects in Jonglei and oil prospecting in Sudan. The president said that the tribal fighting taking place in southern Sudan, which is of a type that is exportable to the east, west, and north, is not directed against northern Sudan.

President Numayri affirmed that national unity has inspired the establishment of the political organization that will secure Sudan's unity. He added that the May Revolution, which fought to preserve national unity, achieved reconciliation through one organization and national dialogue. He said that the May Revolution, which believes in national unity, adheres to the formula of an alliance of the forces of the people as a safety net, stressing that the SSU is bigger, more cohesive, and stronger than all its enemies.

President Numayri said that some of the members of the SSU have been more patient than some of its leaders. He said that the SSU has always been a supporter and a protector of the revolution against the grudge-bearers and the conspirators that are working against the revolution. He also added that the SSU was born and will remain a giant, asserting that no other organization can match it under any slogan, and that it will remain open to dialogue. He also announced that he rejected many times any SSU involvement in student organizations that would act against other student organizations.

President Numayri stressed that Sudan is seeking dialogue because affiliation to the homeland cannot be denied. He said that the People's Armed Forces dealt with the outlaws only in accordance with internal security laws and with the minimum defensive action, and did not deal with them as foreigners.

He also affirmed that there will be no retreat from Islamic law. He disclosed that Libya's colonel cooperated with the Muslim brothers in accordance with Iran's instructions. President Numayri said that the revolution was not negligent, but patient. It was aware of their errors, but ignored them so that the people could discover them themselves. He said that those who betrayed the revolution that adopted and applied Islamic law and those who tried to exploit Islam sought treason and tried to exploit their influence to tamper with the people's destiny. He described them as the enemies of Islam, which totally prohibits usury as a way to prosperity at the expense of people and their food. He added that some poor people in the leadership have become rich.

DJIBOUTI

President Names Members of RPP Political Committee

EA242219 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] The president of the Republic of Djibouti, who is also the chairman of Rassemblement Populaire Pour le Progres, RPP, Al-Hajj Hasan Gouled Apidon, today named the members of the Political Committee of the RPP. The members are:

Hon Barkat Gourad Hamadou — first deputy chairman
Hon Omar Kamil Warsama — second deputy chairman
Hon Aden Robleh Awaleh — third deputy chairman
Hon Moumin Bahdon Farah — secretary-general of the party
Hon Bourhan Ali Warki — first deputy secretary-general
Hon Ismail Gedi Hared — second deputy secretary-general
Hon Ali (?Muhammad Rashid) — secretary for administration
Hon Ahmad Hasan Liban — [position indistinct]
Hon Fahmy Ahmed el Hag — [position indistinct]
Hon Yusuf Ali Shirdon — inspector general
Hon Ismail Omar Gelle — deputy inspector general

Other members of the Political Committee include Hon Mohamed Adabo Kako, Hon Ahmad Bulaleh Barreh, and Hon Ibrahim (?Shaykh Yusuf).

Hon Ahmad Bulaleh Barreh, a member of parliament [words indistinct] and party [word indistinct] of [place name indistinct] is a new addition to the Political Committee of the party. [passage indistinct]

ETHIOPIA

Goshu Denies Troops Sold, Diverted Food Aid

AU221824 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Brussels, March 22 (AFP) — Ethiopian Minister Goshu Wolde today strongly denied accusations that Government troops had sold or diverted food aid intended for the country's eight million famine victims.

The accusations, brought by several members of the European parliament, were "devoid of all foundation," Mr. Goshu told reporters during a visit to the headquarters of the European Economic Community (EEC) here.

"The aid is not for Ethiopian soldiers — they have their own rations," he said, adding: "Sometimes the troops even share their rations with the starving."

However, Mr. Goshu acknowledged that there had been problems in distributing food aid near the Sudanese border.

Mr. Goshu is currently on a Western European tour which he began after the United Nations conference on the African famine, which ended last week. He is to meet here tomorrow with Lorenzo Natali, the EEC commissioner for development.

TANZANIA

President Nyerere Returns From European Tour

EA222324 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0700 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Dar es Salaam — President Nyerere returned to Dar es Salaam this morning after his 2-week tour of Europe covering the Netherlands, Yugoslavia, and Britain.

Nyerere Comments on Retirement, Economy

MB221041 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 21 Mar 85

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Ever since Tanzania's independence in 1961, President Nyerere has been one of the continent's most prominent leaders. He has championed the black liberation movements in southern Africa, he has been a bastion of African socialism, and he is current chairman of the OAU. But at home, all has not gone well. Tanzania has been hit by drought, the economy is in a shambles, the idealistic policy of Ujamaa collective villages has faltered, and for some time the Tanzanian Government has been negotiating, somewhat acrimoniously, with the IMF and the World Bank for a much needed injection of foreign exchange, with President Nyerere defending his socialist principles. Well, this year President Nyerere is due to hand over as head of state, although he will stay on for 2 years as chairman of the single ruling party. He has just been in London and Peter Snow asked him why he was giving up the presidency:

[Begin recording] [Nyerere] I am retiring because basically I think it is time I retired. I have been leading my country for 23 years. Well, it is time I step down and let someone else.

[Snow] A lot of people will wonder whether you are really retiring. You go on being chairman of the party. Won't you really still be the force in Tanzania?

[Nyerere] I will continue being chairman of my party until 1987 and, as chairman of the party in a country which has a single party system, I am not likely to be without influence. And I am going to have some influence, and I don't think it is wrong that I should have that influence. The real problem now is this transition from the period when I have been leading the country for 20, 23, 24 years, and there is some apprehension about the transition. People don't like this transition. There is the question what happens when Mwalimu Nyerere goes. They are going over this one. So, I think the 2 years when I am chairman of the party, but not president of the Republic, help over the transition, but I am simply going to be chairman of the party. I am not going to be head of state. The head of state is the head of state. He is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

[Snow] And you believe that the new head of state will be able to rule that country without looking over his shoulder at you all the time?

[Nyerere] He will not be having both hats as I had for the first 2 years. That makes some difference, but that's all.

[Snow] You have been a strong champion of human rights in Africa and you have been admired for it by many people. But you have also been accused — in very strong terms by some — of being hypocrite, of saying that the other countries must improve their images, to improve their record on human rights, but in being quite unable to do for Tanzania what you would like other countries — you say you would like other countries — to do for themselves. In other words, you have not been able to produce a really free society, with a free press, with a free scope for dissent in your own country. How do you react to that?

[Nyerere] First, you know when people accuse others of being hyprocrites it is not sensible, because what I can say against these hypocrites is subjective or not. I am not an hypocrite, I am very frank. I state what I believe. Hypocrites take positions they do not believe in. And I know our own mistakes. I don't accept the nonsense, that a country is not free until it has more than one party. I don't believe this. I am not opposed to a multiparty system, philosophically. I am not. But I am asking you to look at all the Third World countries. Just look at them. My country is among the freest.

[Snow] But it is still not free, is it?

[Nyerere] Free. Free for you is that I don't have 20 parties. If I had 20 parties in that country, then it would be free. Why? Why? What is this definition? Where do you stop? Why? Why 2 parties, 3 parties, 20 parties, 100 parties? Why is that a definition of freedom?

[Snow] Now, you were also greatly admired in the 1960's for what you said you were going to do with Tanzania's economy. You said you were going to produce a new form of communal socialism that was going to change the capacity of your country, produce, and be prosperous. Now, the fact is that really hasn't brought up the goods, that you are actually producing in many cases less now then you were able to produce in the 1960's in some commodities. Is that a great matter of disappointment to you? Do you think you failed?

[Nyerere] No, but it has nothing to do with the plan to build socialism in the country. The fact that we had a huge food shortage in the country last year has nothing to... I am, this is what...

[Snow] Is it somebody else's fault?

[Nyerere] This is what I...no, no, no. Wait. This is what our critics say. They say Tanzania had a food shortage last year. This has been caused by the Ujamaa policy. But in 1978, the Americans bought from Tanzania 40,000 tons of maize to send to African countries which needed that food.

We were as socialist in 1978 when we were producing these food surpluses in my country as we were last year when we had the problems of drought. Drought in Tanzania is caused by socialism. What causes drought in the nonsocialist countries of Africa?

[Snow] But that was just 1 year. You were talking about the drought. What about the failure of the system that you introduced in the sixties and seventies? What about the failure of that since you preached it in the Arusha speech that you gave in 1967? What about the failure of that to deliver efficient production of agricultural produce over the last 20 years? It hasn't done it, has it?

[Nyerere] Why do you say that? I mean African agriculture is backward. In socialist and nonsocialist countries alike agriculture is backward. In my country, we use the hand hoe, in the capitalist countries in Africa they use the hand hoe. That defines the limits of what a peasant can do, whether you are in a socialist country or not. The difference between a socialist country like Tanzania and a nonsocialist is that the burdens of poverty are shared better in a socialist country then they are in a nonsocialist country. People are surprised.

My country, which has gone through 5 very difficult years, very difficult years preceded by a stupid war started by that mad man in Uganda, five very difficult years, people have been predicting every 6 months that my country was going to collapse. It has not collapsed, because of the success of our policies. Poor we are, yes, but very strong [end recording].

CAMEROON

Central Committee Purged; Party Name Changed

AB241535 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1445 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] The fourth ordinary congress of the Cameroon National Union Party has wound up its sittings in Bamenda with a lot of political mutations. It was at 1515 pm in Bamenda when the head of state and party leader declared closed the first New Deal congress in Bamenda, a congress which has resulted in important mutations in the political life of this nation. In a formal manner, the head of state announced the change of name of the Cameroon National Union Party together with its objectives and assigned it new objectives and schedules. The new party, to which President Biya has also been unanimously elected president, is the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement, abbreviated as CPDM, whose motto will be Unity, Progress, and Democracy.

In his closing address, the president of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement and head of state, Paul Biya, solemnly pledged to meet all the responsibilities that devolve on him as the first leader of the new party, CPDM. He urged all Cameroonians of good intentions to join in what he described as the democratic movement for the development of Cameroon. President Biya, the first president of the CPDM, will enable Cameroonians, poised for the next stage of national unity, which is national integration, to work for an open, critical, tolerant society of lucid participation of all Cameroonians of all walks of life.

Before this plenary closing session, the congress of the New Deal, which saw the birth of the CPDM, elected new members of the party's Central Committee. Among those thrown out are:

Aminou, Oumarou; Assale, Charles; Ayissi, Mvodo; Mbala, Mbarga; Bol, Alima; Bwelle, Guillaume; Ndjimo, Claude-Daniel; Egbe Tabi, Emmanuel; Ekwabi, Ewane; Gema, Garba; Hayatou, Hamadou; Kame, Samuel; Keutcha, Jeanne-Julienne; Sanjol, Zambo; Soheng, Andre; Tenkela, Jean; Touomo, Etienne; Walijo, Wabiya; Tsanga, Delphine.

There are four others who have been thrown out: Kwayeb, Enoch; Malloma, Raymond; Sabal Lecco, Felix; Ebandah, Isabelle.

CHAD

Habre Insists 7,000 Libyan Troops Still in Country

AB241203 Paris AFP in English 1153 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Lome, March 24 (AFP) — President Hissein Habre of Chad today charged that Libya continued to maintain 7,000 troops backed by planes, air defense units and tanks in the north of his country.

During a brief press conference before returning home after a two-day meeting here of leaders from the 10 owner-states of Air Afrique Airlines, Mr Habre said the Libyan presence in the northern half of Chad represented a "grave danger" to his government. He added that the Libyan troops were putting the finishing touches to a 4,000 meter (13,200 foot) runway in a northern oasis that would permit Tripoli to provide Chadian rebels with all types of air support.

Referring to the fact that 500,000 square kilometers (200,000 sq. miles) of Chadian territory are currently under the control of Libyan-backed rebels of the Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT), Mr Habre said, "Libya wants to create an irreversible situation in Chad similar to that in Korea or Germany."

Before leaving the Togolese capital, Mr Habre met with Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, who was also here for the Air Afrique summit, well informed sources said.

RWANDA

Foreign Minister Departs Kigali for Canada

EA232232 Kigali Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Summary] Francois Ngarukiyintwali, Rwandan foreign affairs and cooperation minister, left Kigali yesterday for Canada on a working visit there. Shortly before his departure, the minister said that his visit marked a very important step toward strengthening bilateral relations in view of the political change in Canada last year.

GHANA

Burkina's Sankara Visits Military Exercise

AB221112 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Within the framework of the Ghana-Burkina military exercise codenamed "Exercise Teamwork," Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and Burkina Faso president, arrived yesterday evening at 1800 on Dwarf Island, about 5 km from Akosombo Dam.

After his arrival, the CNR chairman, along with Major Lingani and Major General Quainoo, was immediately led to the allies' control headquarters and was briefed by Ghanaian officers on all the operations of "Exercise Teamwork." Later, the comrade president contacted Ouagadougou to check the reliability of the transmission equipment. Capt Sankara spent the night with the troops.

Rawlings Addresses Troops

AB240850 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] The military field operation, "Exercise Teamwork-85," ended yesterday with the return to the concentration area of all the troops of the task force Volta. There were 90 officers and 5,550 men of the Armed Forces of Ghana and Burkina Faso. They had taken part in three phases of the exercise, the major one being "Operation Hurricane," which was a mock counterattack on dissident forces on Dwarf Island in the Volta Lake.

The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] and commander in chief of the Ghana Armed Forces, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, addressed the troops at the concentration area. He said the healthy interrelationship which existed between officers and men during the exercise was impressive. Flight Lt Rawlings said what is needed now is an institution which can execute our objective in a uniform manner, and he concluded that the military can provide the proficiency to obtain efficiency in many fields. He would therefore demand more from the Armed Forces, not for their benefit alone, but in the interest of Ghana and all of Africa. The soldiers should therefore set high standards and strive for perfection in their respective fields. Chairman Rawlings asked the soldiers to uphold the team spirit displayed during the exercise in all aspects of life.

Earlier, the force commander, Major General Arnold Quainoo, reminded the soldiers that Ghana and Burkina Faso need peace and stability more than ever before to achieve prosperity. But that aim cannot materialize through diplomacy or dialogue. It can only be achieved through total national and professional strength. As he put it, the world has no respect for weaklings because military weakness invites aggression. The force commander said Ghana must build a military force to whom difficulties would be temporary challenges. He commended the soldiers for their exemplary attitude of going ahead with the exercise despite shortages of equipment and manpower.

The chief of defense staff of the Burkina Faso Armed Forces, Major General [rank as heard] Jean-Baptiste Lingani, was convinced that the Armed Forces of Ghana and Burkina Faso would always be ready to defend their countries in the event of any aggression.

Joint Exercise Praised

AB240930 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 24 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The *WEEKLY SPECTATOR* appreciates the cooperation between Ghana and Burkina Faso in the light of the involvement of troops from both countries in the current mock operation codenamed "Exercise Teamwork." It says one point that can be adduced from the exercise is the desire by African states to cooperate in finding solutions to their common problems, for it is an open secret that the enemies of the continent are maneuvering desperately to destabilize the various governments. This is because they are interested only in seeing Africans divided among themselves and would therefore hate to see such cooperation which will ultimately lead to unity in the West African subregion and eventually to continental unity.

The paper observes that through such united efforts, the legitimate aspirations of the people in the subregion and African can certainly be achieved. The *SPECTATOR* maintains that it will also knit together African states into a stronger and dynamic force which the international community cannot afford to ignore.

Rawlings Meets With Sassou-Nguesso, Sankara in Accra

AB241507 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Congo and the leader of the Burkina Faso revolution, Captain Thomas Sankara, made a brief stopover in Accra this morning after attending the 12th session of the Common Organization of Africa and Mauritius meeting in Togo. They were met on arrival by the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, with whom they held 2 hours of talks behind closed doors.

The outcome of the meeting was not disclosed, but in a short interview later with newsmen, Flight Lt Rawlings said it is very important for African heads of state to meet regularly and evaluate their problems. He described the meeting as very successful.

Captain Sankara, for his part, stressed the importance for the three revolutionary leaders to meet often to share common experiences and look at ways of meeting the aspirations of their people.

The two leaders have since left for home.

CATHOLIC STANDARD: Democratize Government

AB241510 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 24 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The *CATHOLIC STANDARD* looks at the political administration of Ghana today and calls for democratization of the processes of government now even as the debate continues about the future political system. On the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] itself, the *STANDARD* says if it is assumed that the members represent those organizations or institutions to which they belong, such as the Trades Union Congress, the judiciary, teaching profession, the Armed Forces, women's groups, etc., then the members of these organizations should be given the chance to elect them. The *STANDARD* also calls for clarification of the positions held by many top officials.

It is prompted to say this following what it says was the listing of several top officials as PNDC secretaries in the official program for the independence day celebrations earlier this month. The paper says this clarification will make for orderliness. Recalling that the original idea of the revolution was to bring government to the doorsteps, the *STANDARD* says the participation of the people in government is more illusory than ever, and it observes that the country is not more decentralized than it was 3 years ago. It may be that we expect results too soon, but by now, it should be obvious to all that we are an impatient people. Whatever our goals, would it be any help at all to have an enlarged forum to provide for as many viewpoints as possible in affairs of the state?, the *STANDARD* asks.

GHANAIAN TIMES Criticizes Reagan on RSA Violence

AB230730 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 23 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The *GHANAIAN TIMES* comments on President Reagan's statement that the current slaughter of Africans by the apartheid security forces in South Africa is unfortunate but justifiable. President Reagan is also quoted as telling a televised news conference that the killing of the Africans is tragic but there has been an increasing violence in South Africa. According to the *TIMES*, Mr Reagan's comments are disquieting indeed, not only because they express an unfeeling attitude to human suffering which the defenseless Africans are subjected to, but also because they show the extent to which the Reagan administration may be prepared to ensure the continuation of the apartheid regime.

IVORY COAST

Assembly Bureau To Consider Dioulo Immunity

AB222152 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The Bureau of the National Assembly has been summoned by its speaker to a session on 25 March to discuss the lifting of the parliamentary immunity of Emmanuel Dioulo [Mayor of Abidjan and principal officer of General Export-Import Company]. It should be pointed out that the detention and trial of a parliamentarian can also be suspended at the request of the National Assembly.

MALI

Minister of Culture Returns From Visit to China

AB230821 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hammani, the Malian minister of sports, arts, and culture, returned from Peking yesterday. He was there for a friendly visit at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart. While in Peking, Mr Ag Hammani visited several 1,000-year-old monuments. He also took this opportunity to strengthen the bonds of cultural cooperation between Mali and China.

NIGERIA

Buhari Pledges Assistance to Equatorial Guinea

AB240630 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Nigeria has pledged to assist Equatorial Guinea in her manpower development. The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, made the pledge yesterday at Dodan Barracks when he received a special message from his Equatorial Guinea counterpart, Colonel Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. Colonel [as heard] Buhari said that the Federal Government would consider the various requests of Equatorial Guinea constructively for the benefit of the two countries.

Delivering the message, the vice prime minister of Equatorial Guinea, Lieutenant Colonel Fructuoso Mba Onana, said that his country was grateful for the assistance it was receiving from Nigeria. The vice prime minister said that Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea should continue to exchange visits in order to strengthen the relations between them.

A few weeks ago, there was a diplomatic issue between Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea over the killing of a Nigerian citizen in that country. The authorities in Equatorial Guinea later stepped up contact with Lagos, starting with a visit by that country's foreign minister.

Finance Minister Meets Press, Discusses Loan Offers

AB231230 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Nigeria has received offers of loans from six European countries. The countries are Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, German Democratic Republic, the United Kingdom, and Poland. The offers totalling 474.3 million naira are being made under bilateral agreements. The minister of finance, Dr Onaolapo Soleye, told a news conference in Lagos yesterday that the IMF loan was a right that Nigeria was entitled to as a contributor to the funds. He pointed out that the conditions must, however, be right.

He said that the present administration, which inherited a budget deficit of about 6.2 billion naira in 1983, reduced the deficit to 3.3 billion naira at the end of 1984. This, the minister said, followed prudent financial management and reordering of priorities.

Dr Soleye announced that more than 5.3 million naira was realized from the 100 naira air travel levy on passengers traveling outside Africa. More than 360,000 naira was also collected from the levy on dormant companies. Dr Soleye said a new expenditure control measure would be introduced by the Federal Government with effect from the first of next month. It is to ensure that government ministries and departments limit their expenditure to their warrant allocations. On moves to reduce tax evasion, the minister said that a finance miscellaneous taxation decree would soon be promulgated.

Speaks on Debt Rescheduling

AB231238 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Methods for rescheduling the country's domestic debts will soon be announced by the Federal Government. The minister of finance, Dr Onaolapo Soleye, stated this in Lagos while briefing newsmen on the activities of his ministry. Dr Soleye explained that the fact that debts would be paid in naira did not mean that the government would accept all claims by the creditors.

On external debt, the minister stated that Nigeria would continue to meet financial obligations. On the IMF loan, Dr Soleye said that negotiations were still going on but gave an assurance that the government would not accept the loan if it was not in the interest of the country.

TOGO

Disturbances During Electoral Campaigns Detailed

AB211814 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Campaigns for election to our National Assembly have been going on throughout the nation since Saturday, 9 March. The campaigns will be crowned on Sunday with legislative elections which will mark a new step in the process of democratization of the institutions of our country. In fact, for the first time since the advent of the Third Republic, these elections, unlike the ones which took place during the first legislature, are marked by an increase in the number of candidates aspiring to be deputies because, as General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the foundding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] and the president, said on the eve of the national liberation anniversary celebration, "the candidates will fly by their own wings." They will go themselves to the electors who, in absolute freedom, will elect those whom they feel are more capable to represent them in the new assembly. "It is to this effect that we have registered 207 candidates who will compete for the 70 seats envisaged for the new assembly.

It will be recalled that on the eve of the opening of the electoral campaign, the minister of interior requested all the candidates to do away with all sorts of demagoguery, to conduct their campaigns in order and discipline, and to demonstrate responsibility and militancy in order to preserve the peace, security, and the political stability in our country, whose good image has won respect and admiration the world over. Unfortunately, in some electoral districts, the campaign has sparked off encounters — abuses and exchanges of blows which at times left some people injured.

It was in this way that in the second electoral district in Lome, specifically in the Wouiti and Ebe Kpota wards, the supporters of rival candidates engaged in skirmishes, destroying or burning the posters of the opponent. Similarly, at Amlame in Amou Prefecture, there were skirmishes, posters were torn, and some supporters threatened to drive away from the prefecture all those who fail to vote for their candidate.

In the Ogou area, at Atakpame, the followers of the different candidates engaged themselves in serious defamatory and verbal duels. In Anie, scuffles broke out among support groups of rival candidates. One candidate organized a commando group of young people armed with sticks molest electors whom his opponent had assembled in a house. Some people were seriously injured during the incident. Other smaller incidents were also reported in Kande, a town where a candidate was violently attacked by the supporters of his rival. Apart from these incidents between opposing candidates, it was reported that in Atakpame, the assistant prefect used his influence in favor of a candidate. The assistant prefect was immediately relieved of his functions.

On the whole, candidates are guided by the voice of reason, wisdom, and maturity during their campaigns throughout the nation. These incidents, which admittedly are attributed to political rivalry, demonstrated the free and democratic nature of this second legislature of the Third Republic. Once again, the party and the government invite all RPT militants and the working masses of our dear fatherland to make the spirit of harmony, fraternity, solidarity, peace, and national unity — which the RPT founding chairman has restored to the heart of all Togolese nationals — triumph and to bury forever the hatchet of division and the settlement of scores which almost plunged our nation into a civil war in the past.

It is therefore in absolute freedom and security that each candidate, whatever his origin, his religion, his ethnic group and social class, will present himself to the electors who, similarly and in absolute freedom as the founding chairman said, will democratically vote for those who will best represent them and defend their interests in the National Assembly.

Concerning the elections, the minister of interior requests all candidates in the city of Lome come to his ministry at exactly 0800 this morning for a matter concerning them.

ANGOLA

Luanda Power Line Sabotaged, Call for Consumption Cut

MB221307 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Luanda has been suffering restrictions in power supplies since last night due to problems on the Cambamba line. In view of these restrictions, we are now reading a communique issued by the (Sonefe) and (Edel) electricity enterprises regarding measures to be observed in the consumption of energy:

In view of limitations on the supply of electricity to the city of Luanda, which prevent the full utilization by the normal consumers, the (Sonefe) and (Edel) enterprises call on all consumers to observe the following:

The available power will allow the continued supply of energy to most consumers, provided that they restrict their consumption. The most significant appliances are heating systems and air conditioners. Accordingly, these appliances must not be switched on. Spare the use of lights and always check your house so that only necessary lights are on.

Last minute news carried by official sources attributes the interruption in the supply of electric energy, which took place yesterday, to an act of sabotage on the high tension line from Cambamba to Luanda.

Once again, all consumers are being requested to rigorously observe the orders from (Edel) and (Sonefe) on the consumption of electricity until the normal electricity supply is reestablished.

BOTSWANA

Masire Comments on RSA Role, Nkomati Accord

MB250807 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has said that he was looking forward to the days when South Africa could play a meaningful role in the development of the southern African region and the entire continent. Dr Masire said this in an interview last Friday with Mr Johan Strydom, a journalist from one of South Africa's Afrikaans newspapers, the *RAPPORT*.

He told the journalist that the best South Africa could do for all southern African countries was to eliminate apartheid and talk to all citizens of South Africa on equal basis.

The president regretted the changes which have so far been effected in South Africa. He said they were not what he and the rest of the leaders of southern African countries had hoped for. Dr Masire said South Africa must invite black leaders, whether they are in jail or not, to come and discuss the future of their country. He reminded his interviewer that most leaders were in jail not because they advocated violence.

On the question of Nkomati, the president accused South Africa of not honoring the accord because he said to date elements favorable to the Mozambique National Resistance, or Renamo itself, were still operating and using South African facilities. The president said that the South African foreign minister admitted this and implicated Malawi and Kenya as other aids to Mozambican rebels.

COMOROS

President Charges Communists Behind Coup Attempt

AB221310 Paris AFP in English 0757 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Moroni, March 22 (AFP) — The attempted overthrow of the Comoro Islands Government last March 8 was mounted by a local Marxist-Leninist movement which wanted to stamp out the Moslem religion, President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane said in a radio broadcast here last night.

He said the communist movement had seven members, headed by Mustapha Said Sheikh. It had organised a democratic front to destabilise the country, and a second, clandestine, group of young civil servants who were to supply administrative documents, slow down government services, spread false information, and provoke villages and township districts to revolt, the president alleged.

He said some three billion CFA francs had been offered to junior ranks in the presidential guard to get them to take up arms against the regime.

President Abderemane said the communist movement, when it recruited collaborators, made them renounce Islam.

He read out part of a letter to him from one of those arrested after the failed coup which showed that it had been planned long ago.

'Exemplary' Punishment for Coupists Requested

AB241348 Paris AFP in English 1334 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Moroni, March 24 (AFP) — Religious leaders in the Comoro Islands today called for "exemplary" punishment for the alleged plotters against the regime of President Ahmed Abdallah who were arrested on March 8.

Arrests are reportedly still taking place in the wake of the failure of a plot by lower ranks of the presidential guard. Some of those arrested were state officials.

There are also daily demonstrations of support for the regime throughout the Indian Ocean archipelago.

The demand by the regligious leaders, the ulemas, was made on their behalf by their chief, the grand mufti, when they met President Abdallah. The Comoros is officially an Islamic republic.

MALAWI

Finance Minister Announces Budget, Tax Cuts

MB221957 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of finance, Mr Edward Bwanali, announced today in parliament that there will be reductions in the amount of taxes payable by most taxpayers in the new financial year. Mr Bwanali made the announcement when he presented the 1985-86 budget statement to the house in Zomba. He explained that adjustments are to be made in the scales and rates of graduated income taxes and pay-as-you-earn taxes. He said the adjustments were intended to reduce the regressive nature of graduated income taxes and to streamline the rates of taxation under pay as you earn. He warned, however, that in the event of a worsening nonfunded deficit, these reductions may be reversed and adjusted upwards to cover such a deficit.

Introducing his statement, Mr Bwanali said the Malawi economy registered substantial growth and improvement in 1984, despite major problems, particularly in international transport. He said the Gross Domestic Product registered a 7.6 percent real growth rate, mainly owing to the agricultural sector in general and the smallholder subsector in particular. The minister said the economy also registered significant increases in output in manufacturing, utilities, construction, distribution, communications, and financial sectors. In addition, the minister said there was also an improvement in the balance of payments caused by the strength of the export sector.

The minister said, however, that on the 1984-85 budget there was a deficit of 104.4 million kwacha on the combined recurrent and development accounts, and the government is to introduce measures to finance part of it. These include, among other things, increase in land rent and taxation on proceeds from rent of properties, royalties, fees, and commissions on supplies to institutions under tender with a value of 200 kwacha or more. In addition, income tax collection (?is advanced) to a financial year corresponding to the financial year of each taxpayer, and new legislation is to be introduced on taxation of (?insurance) companies. The measures are to take effect on 1 April.

NAMIBIA

MPC Agrees on Proposals for Transition Government

MB221813 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1809 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Windhoek, March 22, SAPA — All parties of the SWA/Namibian Multiparty Conference [MPC] have reached agreement on comprehensive constitutional proposals for a transition government, political sources closely associated with the MPC said in Windhoek tonight.

The blueprint for the territory's government until independence will be submitted for consideration to the South African state president, Mr P.W. Botha, in Cape Town on Monday.

Full details were not immediately known but the sources said consensus was reached tonight at special meting where agreement was reached on the outstanding issue of decision-making in the proposed government.

The MPC adjourned this morning without concluding definitive agreements for the proposed autonomous government, following sharp differences over voting procedure.

The SWA National Party [SWANP], which controls the administration for whites, and the Rehoboth Free Democratic Party [RFDP] were reported earlier to have insisted on consensus among all parties in the proposed national assembly and ministers council as the method of passing legislation and resolutions.

The alternative put forward by the SWANP and the RFDP was a voting procedure requiring three quarters majority, which were reported to be unacceptable to the other parties — the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, the SWAPO Democrats, the SWA National Union group and the Coloured Labour Party.

MPC To Meet With P.W. Botha on Independence

MB241122 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1110 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Windhoek, March 24, SAPA — The SWA/Namibian Multiparty Conference [MPC] has formally announced that it will be meeting the South African state president, Mr P.W. Botha, in Cape Town tomorrow. The purpose of the meeting would be "to initiate negotiations with the South African Government and to discuss steps and phases for the handing over of independence to SWA/Namibia at the earliest possible date."

In a statement issued in Windhoek today, the MPC referred to an MPC resolution adopted in October last year to invite all parties with significant support in SWA/Namibia, including SWAPO, to participate with the MPC in a conference on the territory's future. If such a conference failed to materialise, the MPC would begin to negotiate independently with South Africa for a plan of action leading to independence.

"To give effect to this resolution, an appointemnt has been arranged with the South African state president for Monday," the MPC statement said.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha Says UDF Actions 'Communist Inspired'

MB230557 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] The state president says many of the actions of the United Democratic Front [UDF] are communist-inspired. Interviewed on the ABC television news program Nightline, President Botha said that the UDF was being infiltrated by the members of the ANC, which was controlled by the Communist Party.

The actions of the UDF were designed to make the country ungovernable and to overthrow the state. He said he would not allow the goverment to be overthrown by force, and he believed that his successors would not allow this either.

Mr Botha said he would, moreover, not allow schools and the houses of responsible black councillors to be burned down, and orderly life disrupted. Asked about events near Uitenhage on Thursday, he said that the demonstrations had been influenced by those who did not have the real interests of the people at heart.

The demonstrators had claimed to be going to a funeral, but mourners at a funeral did not carry sticks, stones, and bricks. The 18 policemen had opened fire after a warning shot and after having been attacked by a mob several thousand strong.

President Botha was also asked why the American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, had described the system in South Africa in unusually harsh terms if the real situation in the country was being conveyed to him by his assistant, Dr Chester Crocker.

President Botha said he had gained the impression that the Americans were fighting their elections on South African grounds. Senator Edward Kennedy, for instance, had visited South Africa not to take any interest in the country but to prepare for his election campaign back home.

The United States had too many elections and was not in a position to lead the Western world with all the elections it held. However, he did not wish to interfere in the affairs of the United States, nor did he expect interference in South Africa's affairs.

Referring to the country's domestic policies, President Botha said he was opposed to depriving people of their basic human rights. Americans should know that South Africa had spent hundreds of millions of rands on black housing over the past 5 years and had allocated more to education than to defense in its latest budget.

UDF Official Reacts

MB230841 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0800 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] The American ABC's Nightline program has ended its week of broadcasting from South Africa. Appearing in the final program was South African President P.W. Botha, who told the program's host, Ted Koppel, that the series was 1-sided, negative, concentrated on a few bad spots, and gave erroneous images to Americans. Judy Lessing has been watching the program:

[Begin Lessing recording] The president denied Afrikaners dominate the country and said whites had done much for blacks, indeed, that blacks cannot raise themselves up without help, and this is a challenge for white people. The ANC is controlled by the Communist Party, and communists are now infiltrating the United Democratic Front [UDF], President Botha said when asked about the violence at Uitenhage. He said outside agitators love that violence, and he said he will continue to keep law and order because South Africa is a civilized country. South Africans are not a bad lot of Nazis, denying people their rights, as Nightline has suggested, but the hope of the subcontinent of southern Africa, President Botha concluded. Judy Lessing, Capital News, New York [end recording].

But the UDF says President Botha's accusations are without basis and substance. UDF's Farouk Meer is on the line from Durban:

[Begin Meer recording] What type of a president does this country have when he has to stoop so low to justify the massacre of innocent people? I want to remind the president that it is not the UDF that is trying to make this country ungovernable, but that it is apartheid that makes this country ungovernable. While talking of reform, Botha is justifying the massacre of innocent people in our country. He is definitely not interested in peace. [end recording]

Nel New Head of Mozambique Joint Security Body

MB241108 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 24 Mar 85 p 2

[By Neil Hooper]

[Excerpt] The Deputy Minister of Foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, has been appointed chairman of the South Africa/Mozambique Joint Security Commission (JSC).

He replaces the Commissioner of Police, General Johan Coetzee.

An additional South African Representative, Mr Adriaan Vlok, Deputy Minister of Defence and Law and Order, has also been appointed.

This was confirmed yesterday by Mr Nel, who said the changes had been made "to make the committee representative on a political level on both sides."

TRANSVALER Urges Enthusiasm for Progress Made

MB251042 Pretoria DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 14 Mar 85 p 16

[Editorial: "Are We Moving Too Slow?"]

[Text] At the annual meeting of the South Africa Foundation in Cape Town yesterday, there was no mincing of words over the impatience about what was described as the slow pace at which the government is moving away from discrimination.

In fact, the harsh realities facing the country were spelled out in so many words: The impatience at the sluggish pace of change is alienating South Africa's traditional friends; it has given the initiative to the antiapartheid groups, enabled the anti-South African movements to act more effectively, and internally has caused disillusionment, especially in the private sector.

This newspaper accepts that the South African Foundation is battling on the front line for a better understanding of this country, that it is faced with a difficult task, and that sacrifices are being made, for which there can only be appreciation.

We also accept — and even the government will admit — that the pace at which we are moving away from a system of discrimination is not living up to expectation in all respects.

But, having said that, there are important aspects of reform which remain unchanged, namely:

— That South Africa can never allow outside demands to become the criterion according to which we have to initiate change here — no matter how heart-breaking if, in the process, we have to lose the moral support of traditional friends like America. Unfortunately, we cannot see America's recent action at the United Nations, and the support given there to the resolution, in any other light.

— That it is only South Africa's enemies who are pinning their hopes on overnight change in the republic, so that the maintenance of law and order will collapse. The government is aware of its responsibility in this regard.

No community can, overnight, do away with customs and attitudes that have been valid for so long, without causing serious disruption.

Rather than lashing at South Africa because the pace of change does not satisfy foreign and certain internal interests, note should be taken of, and appreciation shown for, the progress made in the country in the last few short years.

As a matter of fact, we for our part have reason to show deep disappointment that the so-called friends referred to at the Foundation's annual meeting did not react more enthusiastically to what has already been achieved. It is this moral support that is needed by South Africans, who, just as eagerly, would like to see a more just dispensation.

RAND DAILY MAIL Questions Amount of Change

MB251128 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 25 Mar 85 p 4

[Editorial: "How Has SA Changed?"]

[Text] There is a link between Sharpeville of March 21, 1960 and Uitenhage of March 21, 1985 in that on each occasion black crowds faced armed policemen representing white authority. In this sense, and even allowing for the fact that at Uitenhage the police group included blacks, the obvious question is: So what's different about South Africa today?

Of course there have been progressive changes during the past quarter century. Walk into any city supermarket and the black people working the tills are testimony to some basic alterations in economic and social relations. There is a substantially bigger middle-class among blacks, with larger numbers better off economically. Blacks in "international" hotels are commonplace. Legal apartheid barriers in employment are virtually ended. Vastly more black children are at school.

That's some of what can be put on the credit side.

But the other side of the balance sheet must carry the note that, while more children are at school, the standard of their education is more than questionable. And the increase in the middle-class is off-set by what is probably greater poverty in the rural areas, in the "homelands" where it is out of sight and usually out of mind.

These past 25 years have been marked by a heavy erosion of our personal liberties: — a look at the post-Sharpeville decade reveals first the introduction of 90-day detention without trial, later its extension to 180 days, and later still its extension to indefinite incommunicado detention.

The period has also had the Government driving ahead with the partitioning of the country — with the result that many millions of blacks have been stripped of their South African citizenship and many millions more are still to suffer that fate. The enforced removal of blacks, Coloureds and Indians from their homes has continued apace, creating an immense and immeasurable amount of anger.

What of influx control and the pass laws — the immediate reason for blacks congregating outside the Sharpeville police station on March 21, 1960? Certainly the system is under attack, and the Government is even speaking of trying to do something about it. But after allowing for all this, it remains with us — to the extent that no less than 163,862 men and women were arrested under the pass laws last year.

So, looked at through black eyes, how much has South Africa really changed for the better this past quarter century? The answer does not lie in President P.W. Botha's boast to ABC television that he has "the co-operation of the vast majority" of black South Africans. It is rather, sadly, to be found in the numbers of blacks who take to the streets to vent their protests.

Finally, can it be said that the police handling of crowds has changed significantly? Only too often the weapon remains the first resort, rather than the last resort that it should be.

Johannesburg on 'Radical Efforts' To Destabilize

MB221616 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] That radical efforts to destabilize society mushroom during a period of reform is by now a well-known phenomenon. No one would dispute that a revolutionary climate has been growing in South Africa in the past 2 years. Nor can there be any argument about the fundamental obligation of the state — any state — to maintain stability, an obligation that is made the more imperative by the intensification of attacks on the stable order during a time of transition in the country's development.

It is natural that change should evoke resistance. That is inherent in the process when it is reform aimed at redressing legitimate social and economic grievances, and giving due expression to the rights of self-determination of people. On the one hand, there are those who are fearful of any change in the established ways. They include the extremists, who are intensely hostile to any move that would affect traditional privileges, even when those are enjoyed at the expense of other communities. On the other hand, there are those for whom the changes are inadequate. They include the extremists who have their own agenda for the revolutionary reordering of society, and recognize that evolutionary reform diminishes their prospects for success. It is altogether proper that the reform process should be constantly monitored, that its objectives and methods should be closely scrutinized in a continuing debate that reflects all standpoints. Participating in the debate is the democratic right of every citizen and interest group and, within the parameters set by the democratic process, it should be exercised to the full.

Those limits are exceeded, however, when the radical extremes take to violence to further their aims. In exploiting the natural rise in political tensions at such a time, their target is the democratic process itself. To succeed, it is necessary for them to create the widespread impression that the government of the day is not in full control, that it is unable to carry out its first duty of maintaining law and order. Hence the continuing outbreaks of obviously well planned and organized demostrations, riots, and attacks on police and others who represent the authority of the state, even in situations where real grievances have already been dealt with to the satisfaction of the aggrieved.

In these circumstances, it is more important that ever that the state should not only be capable of maintaining order, but must be seen to be doing so. To respond inadequately to that challenge would be playing into the hands of the revolutionaries.

Johannesburg Cites Crocker Comments on 'Package Deal'

MB230605 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] The United States has submitted new suggestions to both the South African and Angolan Governments to step up the solution to the South-West Africa problem. This was said at Jan Smuts Airport by the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, before his departure after a brief visit to southern Africa and Cape Verde.

He said the United States was looking for a package deal which included Resolution 435, a Cuban withdrawal from Angola, and the maintenance of territorial integrity. Dr Crocker made it clear that the United States remained opposed to the presence of foreign forces in southern Africa, and he believed that African countries felt the same way.

He denied that no progress had been made on the South-West African issue, adding that a great deal that was positive had occurred in the past 4 years. The accent was now on the Cuban question because that was the main issue which required attention.

Johannesburg Cites Crocker, Fourie Remarks on U.S. TV

MB250619 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, has said on an American television program that unless there was constructive change in South Africa, there was going to be chaos. He said if the South African Government tried to impose changes without negotiating with blacks, such changes were not going to be effective. He added that negotiation and dialogue had been delayed too long, and that that was one of the reasons why there was a pattern of violence in South Africa today.

Dr Crocker said the purpose of America's policy of constructive engagement was a regional one, as well as a policy for South Africa. The United States had outlined a number of important objectives: reducing cross-border violence, bringing independence to South-West Africa, and promoting change in South Africa. Dr Crocker disagreed with another speaker on the program, Senator Lowell Weicker, on the sort of economic pressures the United States could bring to bear on South Africa. He pointed out that South Africa was simply not that dependent on America that it had that kind of leverage.

In a seperate interview on the program, the South African ambassador to the United States, Dr Brand Fourie, said that on Thursday the police at Uitenhage had fired warning shots first, and did not fire into the crowd until they were pelted with stones.

He said there had been more change in South Africa in the past 5 years than in the past 50 years. The government had repeatedly said that it was willing to negotiate with black leaders, and that the black majority was entitled to play a part in the decision making at the highest levels of government. It was trying to find ways to create structures which would give blacks more participation in government.

Unrest, Violence Continues in Black Townships

MB222014 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2008 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Johannesbrug, March 22, SAPA — Unrest continued in numerous black townships throughout the country today, with youths going on the rampage, stoning police and setting fire to homes of policemen, in the wake of yesterday's bloodshed at Langa, near Uitenhage.

More than 30 arrests followed the Langa violence, while four other arrests were made during today's unrest, three at Kimberely. The Langa death toll was put at 18 today as the government appointed a one-man judicial commission to urgently investigate the incident, which brought cries of outrage from anti-apartheid organisations.

Calling for a day of mourning, the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference issued a statement saying: "We feel that no amount of provocation — if indeed there was any — can justify such bloodshed."

About 17,000 black pupils stayed away from 15 primary and two secondary schools in Uitenhage today and class boycotts continued in many other townships.

Several policemen's homes in Kwanobuhle, near Uitenhage, were destroyed in incidents of arson.

Police fired birdshot at stone-throwers who damaged one of their vehicles in the township, a police spokesman said.

Just outside Parys in the free state, a man was injured when he apparently drove into a telephone pole in an attempt to avoid stone-throwing youths. Police arriving at the scene were also stoned and fired rubber bullets to disperse the crowd.

Youths also stoned police vehicles in Sebokeng and Sharpeville, near Vereening, and police retaliated with either rubber bullets, tearsmoke or sjamboks [whips].

About 30 youths in Tembisa, near Kempton Park, set fire to a truck. The flames were extinguished by the police.

Two hand-grenades were hurled at the Jabavu Administration Board building in Soweto, causing slight damage, the spokesman said.

In Zamdela, near Sasolburg, youths obstructed roads and hijacked a bus which they crashed into an administration board office. They then set fire to the offices which were gutted. Four other buses were also extensively damaged. Police used tearsmoke and rubber bullets to disperse about 800 youths.

Police reported that about 1,000 rioting miners at the Vaal Reef mine quarters in Orkney were dispersed with tearsmoke.

Back in the Cape, police were reported to have fired shots at a group in Fort Beaufort who surroudned and set fire to the home of a Dorington town councillor. One man was slightly wounded and arrested. A pastor's home there was also set alight and gutted.

At Cradock, where pupils have stayed away from school for the past two years, the homes of a number of teachers were set alight. This follows the Department of Education and Trainings move to transfer all 130 teachers to other areas of the Cape.

The Kimberley township fc Galeshuwe was the site of more unrest. The home of a circuit inspector of education was burnt to the ground, while black youths also set fire to a headmaster's home, causing extensive damage. One youth was arrested.

Police fired rubber bullets and birdshot at about 400 pupils from the Tidimale secondary school who stoned and damaged a police vehicle. Another group of pupils from this school later stoned the school building and then moved to a shopping complex where they shattered windows and bent burglar bars.

Four adminsitration board vehicels were stoned and damaged in Galeshuwe. Two of the drivers fired shots at the youths but no injuries were reported, according to the police spokesman.

In another Galeshuwe incident, a petrol bomb was hurled at a police vehicle. Polcie fired birdshot, slightly injuring one man who was subsequently arrested. Rubber bullets were also fired at a group marching through the township. A policeman guarding a shop in the township fired shots at a group approaching the area, slightling injuring one man who was arrested.

The Department of Education and Training has suspended classes at all four Galeshuwe secondary schools until April 10.

In Wesselsbron, in the free state, boycotting pupils returned to their classrooms at the Ithabileng secondary school after police were called in.

Death Toll Rises to 29

MB250634 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The death toll in the eastern Cape has risen to 29 since last Thursday. This follows the deaths of two men shot by police over the weekend. Police say that they killed the men after they attacked a police officer with knives after the police had cornered them.

Police suspect the dead men had earlier been involved in a petrol bomb attack on the home of a town councillor in Kwazakhele. Meanwhile, police and councillors continue to be the victims of attacks. Two charred bodies burned beyond recognition, have been found in Kwanobuhle township.

Police say one of the bodies could be that of the last remaining councillor in the township, (T.B. Kinikine), after all others resigned recently. The body of his son, (Selumke Kinikine), has also been found hacked by crowds with axes, knives, spades, and sticks, and then burned after petrol was poured over it.

In Langa, police say 20 petrol bombs were thrown at them after a (Casper) vehicle bogged down in the mud. Three officers were injured. Police also say the houses of at least 18 police officers have been destroyed in Langa and Kwanobuhle.

Parties, Groups React to Recent Violence

Call for Le Grange Resignation

MB241100 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 24 Mar 85 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] The resignation of the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, has been demanded by five of the eight political parties in the tricameral Parliament.

Two Labour and the National People's Party are coalition partners in the Government.

This virtually unprecedented unanimity came as violence continued in the eastern Cape and the death toll mounted to 26 in Uitenhage yesterday.

Yesterday's deaths included the discovery of five charred bodies in Langa township, scene of Thursday's shootings. Only one has been positively indentified — the 18-year-old son of a Kwanobuhle town councillor.

The demand for Mr le Grange's resignation follows a succession of events involving the South African Police.

Now, after this week's shooting in Uitenhage, which resulted in an international uproar, a question being posed in parliamentary circles is whether the iron-fisted 57-year-old political head of the SAP has lost control of the force.

This weekend five parties individually called for his resignation: the ruling Labor Party and opposition Democratic Workers' Party in the House of Representatives, the majority National People's Party and opposition Solidarity in the House of Delegates, and the Progressive Federal Party, offical Opposition in the Assembly.

Of particular significance is the hard-hitting statement by the Labor Party — the Government's biggest coalition partner. It is usually reticent about making public statements on police activities.

The key statements:

Mr Peter Mopp, chief spokesman on justice for the Labour Party, majority party in the House of Representatives:

"Ministerial reponsibility demands that Mr Louis le Grange must go. His mishandling of the eastern Cape situation, among others, which was described by Ambassador Worrall as completely unjustified raises the question of whether the minister is competent to continue in his post.

"Shooting and killing people does not resolve problems. The party repeats its earlier call that immediate attention to be given to the underlying cause of the unrest.

"Blacks are South Africans and entitled to all the rights and obligations of fellow South Africans, and the minister must realise this.

"The judicial inquiry should also investigate whether he is competent to continue in his post."

Mr Ranji Nowbath, Law and Order spokesman for the National People's Party, ruling party in the House of Delegates, whose leader sits in the same Cabinet as Mr Le Grange:

"I think he should seriously consider resigning. We have had a series of incidents — Crossroads and the eastern Cape to name two. The big question is: who is in charge? The police or the Minister?

"In the same way as Gerrit Viljoen was put into the Department of Cooperation and Development, I think we should put somebody who is more amenable to reason, who is not a martinet, in the post of Law and Order."

Dr F. van Zyl Slabbert, leader of the official opposition in the House of Assembly: "I think the Minister is such an embarrassment in his handling of these sensitive issues that he should not be allowed to continue in his post. His arrogance and refusal to listen to advice aggravates the situation."

Mr Mamo Rajab, chief Law and Order spokesman for Solidarity, official Opposition in the House of Delegates:

"The events prove that Mr le Grange is totally incompetent. It is only natural to call for his resignation. Unlike a Viljoen or a Heunis, he does not believe in communication."

Mr Denis de la Cruz, leader of the official Opposition in the House of Representatives:

"I find the South African Police's and Mr Le Grange's handling of the Uitenhage incident deplorable. In the light of recent events and the serious implications for us as politicians and South Africa's image, I call on the President to dismiss Mr le Grange."

Mr Vause Raw, caucus leader of the NRP [New Republic Party], was also critical of Mr le Grange, while stopping short of calling for his resignatoin.

"Time and time again his hardline attitude and rejection of all criticism have served to damage the image of South Africa internally and externally."

Botha Rejects Ouster Demands

MB250833 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0800 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] State President P.W. Botha has rejected demands for the resignation of South African Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange. The call for the minister's resignation came from five political parties after the unrest in the eastern Cape. The political parties say Le Grange is unable to control the police.

President Botha has told a Cape Town newspaper that it is his prerogative to appoint ministers, and that he will not be influenced by what he terms agitators.

The president says he is amazed that attacks can be made on a minister, in his words, doing his duty, while rioters defy and challenge the laws of the country.

Suzman Refutes Official Version

MB230730 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0700 GMT
23 Mar 85

[Text] Helen Suzman says the government's version of events that led to the shooting of people in Uitenhage is untrue. More than 17 people were killed when police opened fire on a crowd of marchers on Thursday.

The Progressive Federal Party member of Parliament yesterday visited Uitenhage's Langa township with several opposition party members of Parliament. Mrs Suzman says the delegation had been forced to go into the township with police protection they had not requested, but she says once in Langa, they spoke to at least 40 township residents.

[Begin Suzman recording] They all told the same story, and that is that there had been a completely unprovoked attack by the police, that no warnings were given, that no teargas was used, that the police simply shot into this unarmed crowd, which was marching along on their way to a funeral which was being held, or they thought was being held, which in fact had been postponed.

They had originally been in taxis and kobis, and the police had made them get out and walk. So this nonsense that they were marching on the town in order to create disturbance is just obviously untrue because they were going to drive through the town to the other side, to the other location, which is called Kwanobuhle. [end recording]

UDF Reaction

MB250606 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0518 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, March 25, SAPA — Organisations reacting to the Uitenhage incident last week in which police opened fire on a crowd of several thousand marching blacks have referred to South Africa as "a county at war with itself."

The United Democratic Front said Pretoria had never won the consent of the black majority and had always ruled by force. "Wherever crimes have been committed by this racist regime people have had no option — in fact they have considered their duty — to resist. The alternative — one which we will never accept — is to consent to permanently servile status under a state whose legitimacy we reject."

The UDF said people fought against apartheid because they wanted to "live in peace." It added: "The people's patience is not boundless. Unless some steps are taken to secure conditions of peace it cannot be guaranteed that this patience will continue."

Crocker 'Snubbed' by UDF

MB250910 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 23 Mar 85 p 2

[By Anton Harber, political reporter]

[Text] The United Democratic Front (UDF) yesterday deliberately snubbed Dr Chester Crocker, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, because they said they were "disgusted" by the reaction of U.S. President Ronald Reagan to the shootings in Uitenhage.

Asked yesterday if they were meeting Dr Crocker, UDF officials said the U.S. embassy had requested such a meeting yesterday afternoon.

However, the UDF declined the invitation.

Mr Popo Molefe, the UDF general secretary, said any meeting with Dr Crocker would be impossible "because our people are outraged and disgusted by the statement made by President Reagan on the Uitenhage shootings".

Mr Reagan said there was an element in South Africa that did not want a peaceful solution of the country's problems but preferred violence.

He said that to suggest the police were totally responsible for the violence ignored the fact that there was rioting going on at the time.

Mr Molefe said yesterday the UDF found it hard to distinguish between the words of the U.S. President and those of the South African minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange.

"As such we regard these sentiments as an act of hostility towards the African people.

"Reagan is now making common cause with the racist regime which mercilessly mows down innocent mourners. Any meeting with U.S. officials would constitute condonation of this criminal collaboration," he said.

He added that the UDF did not confuse Mr Reagan with the U.S. people as a whole.

Methodists Call Synods

MB251035 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1030 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Johannesburg, March 25, SAPA — The white authorities should recognise that it was not the police who could de-escalate township unrest, but the imprisoned "authentic" black leaders, who "must be released," the national head of the Methodist Church, the Rev Peter Storey, said in Johannesburg today.

He announced in a statement that in an unprecedented move the Methodist Church, Southern Africa's largest multiracial church, would hold special district synod meetings next month, as a direct result of the events in Uitenhage last week.

He considered the church had a vital role to play in bringing about peace and reconciliation.

Responsible for the violence, Mr Storey said, was the erosion of civil rights, the education system, the exclusion of blacks from the constitution and the "provocative presecnce of armed police at funerals and memorial services and the awesome powers given to the security police."

No right-thinking person would like to see the violence continue to escalate and he believed the time had now come "for whites in authority to recognise that it may be that the only people who can de-escalate the unrest in the townships are not the police but the leaders who are in prison at present."

Mr Storey said: "Never before has the need for statesmanship of the highest calibre been more urgent than now." He added that both sides of the conflict needed a special quality of leadership. This meant the "authentic" black leaders, who were imprisoned, banned or detained, must be released. The statement also expresses its deep concern than white christians were "insulated from much of what is happening among their fellow black methodists" and that black ministers were "desperately isolated in an increasingly volatile situation."

While white methodists worshipped in "serene innocence," people were being killed on the doorstep of township churches. (Last week's Langa shootings took place only metres from a Methodist Church.)

The convening of the extraordinary synods was a "first step" to examine the ongoing crisis and to see what role the church could play in reducing such violence, Mr Storey said. All ministers in the church will attend the synods.

Student Union Condemns Deaths

MB221221 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1144 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Cape Town, March 22, SAPA — The shooting of at least 18 people by the South African Police in Uitenhage yesterday "gives the lie to the peaceful posturing of P.W. Botha's government" and their talk of reform, the National Union of South African Students [NUSAS] said in a statement today.

Reacting to yesterday's unrest in the eastern Cape, NUSAS expressed its anger, outrage and sadness to the countrywide and international protests at the "mindless killing of these fellow South Africans.

"In the wake of similar shootings in Sharpeville, Crossroads, Welkom, Pretoria, Kroonstad and many other areas that have resulted in hundreds of deaths, it is undeniably clear that South Africa is in the midst of a growing civil war. Violence is the only response offered by the Nationalist government to the basic demands of the people suffering udner apartheid.

"This chain of events demonstrates the absolute inability of the Botha government to lead South Africa to peace, and their intention to wage a war that they cannot win at whatever cost," the statement said.

NUSAS said the country was at war with itself, with white youth being conscripted and black youth dying in the townships.

They urged the white community in particular, "to face the situation with honesty and courage and to side openly with the gathering momentum of opposition to apartheid," and called for the condemnation in the strongest possible terms of the "violent over-reaction of the SADF and SAP.

"There can be no peace while there is apartheid and it is towards the eradication of this evil that all South Africans must direct their anger and efforts," the statement ended.

Johannesburg, Press, Radio Freedom on Violence

Police Had 'No Alternative'

MB250815 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] That violent confrontation with the police has become established as significant dimension of political violence in South Africa has been clear for some time now. That it can have unforeseen and tragic consequences for the misguided participants is illustrated by the events at Langa last Thursday.

Eighteen people were killed and more than 30 wounded when a crowd of more than 3,000, armed with petrol bombs, among other things, surrounded a patrol of 19 policemen. The police had no alternative but to fire in self-defense.

The incident has drawn international attention to the ominous turn taken by the instigators of political violence in the country. In his reaction, President Reagan remarked on an element in South Africa that do not want a peaceful settlement — who want violence in the streets. He also noted that the clash had not been between black and white, but between rioters and law enforcers. Some of those enforcing the law, he said, were also black policemen.

It is a point that has been made with growing force in situations of unrest in the past few months. In a newspaper interview last week, the commissioner of police stated that policemen had become the prime targets of rioters. It had become evident, General Johan Coetzee said, that there was a well-organized attempt to kill, maim, and injure policemen on duty in areas of unrest. He warned: I cannot, and will not, allow my men to be murdered off in this manner.

That revolutionary activists greatly intensify their efforts when there is genuine reform under way, and that that is what happening in South Africa today is now widely recognized. As *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL* put it, for these activists the moment of greatest personal danger comes when government reform appears to be gaining in popularity or legitimacy. At such a moment, it becomes vital for the activist to demonstrate that the government's efforts are failures. Hence we see violence, which mars any picture of peaceful change.

Inciting attacks on policemen during mass demonstrations forms a special part of that general strategy. Violence directed expressly against the police as representatives of the authority of the state and enforcers of law and order, is supposed to convey the message of a general rejection of authority and law.

It also serves a more sinister purpose. In eliciting Tartar action, and exploiting any casualties that occur as a result, it is designed to create martyrs and thereby add emotional impetus to efforts to activate the masses in favor of the revolutionary campaign.

Inasmuch as reform is fatal to the efforts of revolutionaries, removing as it does the basis on which they make their own bid for mass support, it must be expected that, for the foreseeable future, there will be repeated attempts to foment mass unrest in South Africa. Some of it will be directed particularly at the police. Whether general or specific in its targets, however, it must be firmly dealt with. It must also be dealt with in such a way that the radical instigators are denied the revolutionary propaganda they hope to make out of such confrontations.

Halt to Violence Needed

MB230924 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 23 Mar 85 p 1

[Editorial: "Time To Cry Halt"]

[Text] Enough! This country is tearing itself apart. We are writing our history in Blood. Police man the barricades in townships across the country, mobs roam. There is the smell of anarchy in the air.

On Thursday this week — the 25th anniversary of Sharpeville — 19 people were shot dead and scores hurt by police gunfire in a Uitenhage township. The day before it was two dead. And the day before that it was four dead and five injured. Since the beginning of the year more than 60 people have perished in mindless, useless violence. Schools are boycotted, property destroyed, jobs sacrificed.

And vapid fools mouth platitudes about unrest being an inevitable consequence of reform, as if this is what it is all about. No, South Africa is experiencing the more frightening consequence of failing to offer political reform to blacks. The disastrous exclusion from the new constitution, the removal of citizenship, the empty promises — these are what are fuelling growing black alienation from whites, from businessmen and their values, from each other. After that, any grievance has the potential to trigger anger. And, of course, hoodlums, thugs and callous political opportunists are taking advantage of it all.

Surely it is time to stop wringing hands and do something.

The state president has taken the first essential step by ordering a judicial commission to investigate the conflicting accounts of events at Langa. We, the public, do not know the truth; until we do, the potential for suspicion and resentment is immense. Whites and blacks cannot afford to believe different truths about these shootings.

The next imperative step is for all leaders, for anyone with any aspirations to leadership, to cool emotions. The cycle of violence and counter-violence must be broken. There needs to be, at least, a truce.

And the third step — the essential step if the first two steps are to have any meaning — is for the state president to announce, without delay and with the utmost grace a statement of intent not shrouded in ambiguity to meet legitimate black grievances, and a precise timetable for its implementation.

After Sharpeville, Cabinet Minister Paul Sauer announced that "the old book" of South African history was closed and a new deal was coming. It helped to still the passions. But nothing happened and hope and trust turned to ashes.

This country cannot afford a repetition.

Struggle Must Continue

MB221930 Lusaka Radio Freedom in English 1700 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Fellow workers, brothers, and sisters, 21 March has brought back the bitter memories of the Sharpeville massacre of our beloved ones 25 years ago by the brutal and ruthless police of the racist regime. South Africa, like all other capitalist countries, maintains and promotes the so-called order through whatever means necessary to maintain the capitalist domination and exploitation of the toiling masses.

In our country, with all the peculiarities of our oppression, this order is maintained through the barrel of a gun. This has always been, and still is, the order of the day. How can we forget this day, when our lives are being shortened by poverty wages, massacre in any event of resistance, forced removals, destruction of family life, pass laws, etc.?

These genocidal laws keep reminding us that history will always repeat itself. Only yesterday, history repeated itself in a very heartrending manner. Botha's gestapo police again ripped the bodies of our beloved mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters with bullets, leaving many lifeless, widowed, and orphaned.

Homes of patriots were raided at the crack of dawn, many of whom were taken away to die in the fascist prisons. We can no longer bury our dead as we wish; Le Grange, the killer, has to decide for us. To him, funeral processions are battle formations, therefore his trigger-happy boys — the police — have to open fire indiscriminately, mow down the mourners, for what it regards as defense. They did it 25 years ago, and on many occasions. Death has become part of our everyday life.

The international community has condemned racist South Africa for its apartheid system and brutalities perpetrated against its opponents and aggression against its independent neighboring states. Solidarity campaigns have been launched against South Africa but, to them, this is just useless rhetoric.

How can we sit back and fold our hands when the Botha-Malan racist regime has declared war against us? Is this what is expected of the oppressed and exploited peoples when they talk of order? Of course this will never happen. It has never happened in the history of any oppressed nation.

The battle lines have long been drawn, and we have responded, and we will always respond to the battle cry: Forward with the struggle! The people of South Africa have no choice but to take the battle to the enemy. We have to step up our political and military offensive, which has been built over the past 25 years, and achieve our independence. These were the words of our secretary general of the ANC, Comrade Alfred Nzo.

The South African Congress of Trade Unions, SACTU, lowers its banner in honor of our fallen freedom-loving people. We also convey our condolences to all the bereaved families. We want to reassure them that the murder of their loved ones shall be avenged. The struggle continues, no matter how strong and powerful the enemy can be.

ANC's Nzo Reiterates Call for Embargo, Sanctions

EA222321 Dakar PANA in English 1310 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Lusaka, 22 March (ZANA/PANA) — African National Congress (ANC) Secretary-General Mr Alfred Nzo yesterday reiterated the call to the international community to be firm with racist South Africa, impose an oil embargo and comprehensive economic sanctions.

In a statement released here to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Sharpville massacre, Mr Nzo reported that at least 17 people were killed yesterday by the South African police in the town of Uitenhage. Mr Nzo said for the international community to ignore this appeal would be to encourage the Pretoria regime to commit even more brutal massacres. He said that yesterday's incident was a clear indication that the Pretoria regime's attitude remains unchanged and still believes in the idea that the use of violence against the people will ensure its permanent survival.

He said it was more urgent now to overthrow the apartheid regime if the inhuman system they have imposed on the black people is to end. That the [word indistinct] our country shows ever urgent and necessary that the murderous Botha-Malan regime must go. Those killers refuse to listen to reason. They are deaf to the cries of the orphans and the widows they have made. They are unmoved by the sight of the thousands of graves of the victims of their barbarity, said Mr Nzo. [Words indistinct] built up in the last 23 years, Mr Nzo said South Africans should take the battle to the enemy. He said the salvation of the blacks lies in the defeat of the white minority rule and added that the ANC will sacrifice everything to achieve this goal.

ZIMBABWE

Justice Minister Departs for Visit to France

MB230543 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of justice, legal, and parliamentary affairs, Comrade Eddison Zvobgo, has gone on an official visit to France. While in Paris, Comrade Zvobgo will hold talks with French officials in the Ministry of Justice as well as other government ministries. He will be away for 1 week.